Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Unexploded ordnance found at Saipan port. » PAGE 2

Navy responds to potential endangered species lawsuit. » PAGE 3

Court: Torres trying to incite retirees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday stated that the court will not allow inciting words from Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres pertaining to payments of 25 percent pension benefits to retirees.

» Tang says without appropriation it's like money laundering

At an emergency hearing, Tydingco-Gatewood read a news article quoting Torres in a statement when he urged "all retirees and settlement fund members to contact Ms. Joyce Tang and ask her to stop playing games with your pensions."

Tydingco-Gatewood said it appears that Torres was trying to incite the Settlement Fund beneficiaries.

See JUDGE on Page 4

'House inaction harms retirees'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Retiree faces uncertain future

CNMI retirees face an indefinite delay in their 25 percent pension payments that some lawmakers tie to a "shortfall" that the Saipan casino law guaranteed when it mandated a $15-million annual casino license fee, an amount that falls short of the estimated $17 million annually needed to address the pension reduction, according to Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) on Saturday.

"We were going to be short no

See HOUSE on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Members of the Saipan Dance & Music Studio perform a hip-hop dance number during the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival over the weekend at Kammer Beach grounds on Tinian. Inset, Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas prepares to taste one of the dishes in the Estofao Pika Cooking Contest.

See more photos on Page 8 & 9

Fun, food, entertainment in Pika Festival

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KAMMER BEACH, Tinian— Local and off-island tourists celebrated Valentine's Day weekend enjoying the sights and sounds of the 2016 Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Families, couples, and lovers were treated to a packed lineup of performances from local bands and dance groups to various competitions, highlighted by the traditional Tinian pepper-eating contest.

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas said the annual festival does not only provide entertainment to the local community and off-island tourists, but also pumps in income to the Tinian Mayor's Office and local businesses.

See FUN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Mount Carmel School emerged as this year's champion in the 18th Annual NMI High School Mock Trial held last Thursday and Friday at the House of Justice.

» PAGE 13

LOCAL

True love can indeed be found at work, as there is a significant trend of companies being supportive, to some reasonable extent, of the inevitable office romance.

» PAGE 14

15 DAYS
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Local

Unexploded ordnance found at Saipan port

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Port of Saipan was closed temporarily after unexploded ordnance was found last Friday.

The ordnance was from World War II and after discovery, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Coast Guard closed off certain areas of the port.

It initially affected delivery of imports including fuel—causing panic for some residents to line up for gas and fill up their tanks as early as 2pm on Friday.

However, the affected operations were also resolved and the port was back to normal Saturday morning.

"We're back to normal, we're open, but we still have a 100 feet safety zone from the ordnance," CPA acting executive director Chris Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio said the ordnance was found by a contractor, which was digging for a pipeline for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"When they were digging they discovered the ordnance," Tenorio said.

This was confirmed by CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho.

"The contractor was trenching for the pipeline project pipeline and identified the ordnance. Everything was ceased at that point," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune.*

Tenorio wasn't able to release information yet on what kind of ordnance was found as they are waiting for the team from Guam to arrive.

A report was sent to Sector Guam from the Marine Safety Detachment Saipan also on Friday and a Unified Com-

See UNEXPLODED on Next Page

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The digging site of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s pipeline project at Port of Saipan, where an unexploded World War II bomb was found on Friday. The news of the bomb's discovery circulated in the social media, causing many motorists to resort to panic buying of gas until Saturday night.

Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy candidates get Q&A tips

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 14 candidates of the Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy underwent a crash course on how to effectively answer questions last Friday at McDonald's in Middle Road.

Tina Snodgrass, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology graduate of Oregon State University, was the guest speaker and she gave pointers and some tips to give the candidates the confidence in answering the judges' questions.

The coronation night of the Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy is set on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

"It was just a short talk by Ms. Tina. She gave a crash course and tips on how to effectively answer interviews during the question and answer portion of the pageant," said pageant director Ernie Molina.

"I also do exercises with them just to see what they have learned and to check their confidence," Molina added.

With less than a week before the winner is crowned, all 14 candidates are busy with their practices under Molina's strict supervision.

The Philippines honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago will be hosting a dinner at 6pm at Kanoa Resort tonight. The event was supposed to be held at lunchtime last Saturday but Arago was busy with other affairs.

A pageant dry run will be held at Royal Taga Hall on Wednesday at 8:30pm, while the general practice will be held the following day. The candidates will take a rest on Friday before Saturday's big day.

The criteria for judging will be based on personality, talent, formal wear, and the question-and-answer portion. The candidates will be judged right from the opening number like the way they dance and move on stage.

Angela Barbo, Mary Angela Cabrera, Clarice Mhae T. Canarejo, Catherine Kate Castro, Janelle S. Lavetoria, Queen Anne Lopez, Mazie Anne A. Manalang, Adonna Matutino, Rhine Jaydel Russell, Mary Lenor Sablan, Chloe Salvosa, Michaella Serrano, Mikamaika Serrano, and Erica Tubera are the 14 candidates.

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Delta Sky Magazine to Feature NMI

Delta Air Lines Sky Magazine will feature Saipan in its March 2016 Japanese-language edition.

The coverage comes following discussions between the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Japan on ways to promote the Northern Mariana Islands. Sky, a full-color, in-flight magazine introduces destinations throughout the world and provides a variety of useful information to travelers. The MVA met with tis editor on Jan. 20, and the magazine conducted a tour of Saipan on Jan. 25-29.

The March edition will feature eight pages of coverage for Saipan. Meanwhile, the Japanese government recently maintained its assessment that the country's economy is "recovering moderately."

Saipan Tinian Rota
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Navy responds to potential endangered species lawsuit

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

In the face of a potential lawsuit over alleged violations of environmental law, the U.S. Department of Navy emphasized the need for servicemen to train in the land, sea, and air of the Marianas in the name of national security.

The statement Thursday from Joint Region Marians, however, does not directly comment on the lawsuit or disclose if alleged violations will be "cured" within two months as sought by environmental groups.

The potential lawsuit involves live-fire, sea, and undersea training approved in the "Marianas Islands Training and Testing" project that the group's claims violate the Endangered Species Act.

Last August, the Navy gave the go-ahead on the MITT project, to replace a smaller scale on approved five years. Among the undersea sonar training the Navy approved strike, amphibious, anti-surface, electronic, anti-submarine, and mine warfare, among others. It approves use of F-35 joint strike fighter aircraft, aircraft carrier, destroyer class vessel, and amphibious combat vehicles and unmanned vehicle and aerial systems, inclusive of numerous rocket and projectile munitions and "kinetic energy weapons" or rail guns that use energy to accelerate projectiles to supersonic levels, according to decision-making documents.

The Navy also approved state-of-the-art high-frequency sonar systems to be operated from Navy vessels.

"The Navy is aware of the contents of the letter but it is our practice not to comment on possible or pending litigation," said Joint Region Marianas in statement to *Saipan Tribune* Thursday.

"It is essential that Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Soldiers have realistic training on land, at sea, and in the air that fully prepares them to prevail when and where necessary. Recognizing our environmental responsibilities, the Navy and Marine Corps have been, and will continue to be good environmental stewards as we prepare for and conduct missions in support of our national security. The Navy will continue to work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure our compliance with the Endangered Species Act."

The potential lawsuit—from the local Alternative Zero Coalition and the nation-wide Center of Biological Diversity, among others—alleges that the Navy and the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to reconsider the expansive military project in light of newly declared and threatened species in the Marianas.

The groups center on the Navy's continued and authorized training within the Marianas despite a lack of consultation with the wildlife service, after the Service's declared 23 plant and animal species as endangered or threatened last October.

"The Navy and the Service have violated and remain in ongoing violation of the ESA," said David Henkin, an Earthjustice attorney, in a "notice of intent to sue" letter to Defense leaders, the Department of Interior, and the Wildlife Service.

Henkin uses the Service's own words in their final rule on the matter: "The [Marianas Islands Training and Testing area] opens up every island within the Mariana Archipelago as a potential training site…which subsequently may result in negative impacts to any number of the 23 species addressed."

The project increases "training activities in Guam, Rota, Saipan, Tinian, Farallon de Medinilla (increase in bombing), and Pagan. Likely negative impacts include, but are not limited to, direct damage to individuals from live-fire training and ordnance, wildlife resulting from life-fire and ordnance, direct physical damage (e.g. trampling by humans, helicopter landing, etc.) to individuals, and spread of nonnative species."

"Additionally, water purification training is proposed for all these islands, except for Farallon de Medinilla, which may be particularly damaging to the Rota blue damselfly," the Service said.

Henkin said the new rule makes clear that the Navy training may affect the newly listed species—"triggering the obligation to reinitiate consultation."

The potential lawsuit—from a total of eight groups—taps into larger frustrations that Marianas residents have had with U.S. President Barack Obama's "Pacific Pivot," or strategic military shift to the region, which has ballooned into a handful of separate Department of Defense projects in the CNMI and Guam in recent years.

One project includes the relocation of thousands of Marines and their independents to Guam, while another has proposed to house artillery, mortar, grenade ranges on the island of Tinian, where two-thirds of land is leased to Defense; and to lease the entire island of Pagan for bombing and range training purposes.

For the MITT project, the Navy expanded a training area encompassing some 500,000 square nautical miles of ocean into an expansive 980,000-some square miles—an area that advocates have lamented as larger than the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, and New Mexico combined.

UNEXPLODED

From Page 2

mand (UC) has been assembled which is led by CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the U.S. Coast Guard, according to a press release.

The UC coordinated the deployment of a specialized U.S Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment from Guam, which is scheduled to arrive on tomorrow to "conduct further assessment and recommend the way forward."

Tenorio said more information on the ordnance will be released today and they will also inform the public regarding the removal.

"We have to remove it and we have to announce it to the public so that they will be aware," Tenorio said.

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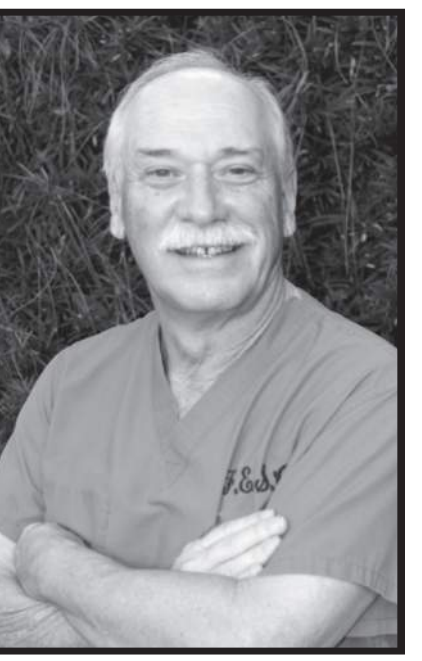

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JUDGE

From Page 1

"It's not acceptable. It's not appropriate. It's not right. It's not fair," the judge said during a telephonic hearing.

Tang is a Guam-based lawyer that the court appointed as trustee for the Settlement Fund.

The emergency hearing was held after Tang requested to address the issue of the Settlement Fund's continuing assistance and accommodation to the CNMI government in disbursing the 25 percent payments.

Acting governor Victor Hocog appeared in court with assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Hocog to meet with Settlement Fund Trustee Tang and the counsel for Betty Johnson to come up with a solution to the 25 percent issue.

The judge ordered the parties to appear at a status conference on Feb. 19 at 8:30am.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that the late governor Eloy S. Inos had been very cooperative with the court and to the parties in Betty Johnson's class action.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Inos worked very diligently when they crafted the Settlement Fund agreement.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the court cannot accept this lack of cooperation from Torres.

Hocog told the judge that he will uphold the settlement agreement to meet the 75 percent as agreed upon in Johnson's class action.

Hocog said he will further discuss the matter with the Legislature.

"You can assure my words," Hocog said.

Tydingco-Gatewood asked Hocog to continue cooperating and communicating with Settlement Fund Trustee Tang and Johnson's counsel.

Tang said the government appropriated funds to pay the 25 percent pension payments from the casino license payments under Public Law 18-56 (Casino Law).

Tang disclosed that this source has been exhausted as there is no money available for the casino license fees paid by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. with which to pay the 25 percent pension payments for Fiscal Year 2016.

For FY 2016, Tang said, the government has to pass a law to appropriate $1,529,874.66 for Tinian, $1,081,038.12 for Rota, and $12,677,050.11 for Saipan to cover FY 2016 25 percent pension payments.

Tang said the Settlement Fund processes the 25 percent payments as an accommodation to the government.

The Settlement Fund calculates the 25 percent pension payments each pension period and releases the funds after confirming the money is funded, and that funding was properly appropriated under NMI law.

"The Settlement Fund is an extension of the District Court, and must uphold all laws," Tang said, adding that the Settlement Fund cannot disburse money that was not properly appropriated.

Tang cited that during Inos' tenure, they communicated regularly to work on these issues.

Unfortunately, she said, all her letters and calls to Torres on Jan 29, 2016, and Feb. 10, 2016, went unanswered.

Tang said instead the government demanded that the Settlement Fund release funds that were not appropriated for the 25 percent pension payments.

On Friday, Tang returned the 25 percent payment for Feb. 12, 2016 to the NMI Treasury.

Tang said a dispute has arisen because the government disagrees with the position of the Settlement Fund, and continues to demand that the Settlement Fund process funds that were not appropriated.

Tang has refused to process funds that were not properly appropriated for the 25 percent payment without a court order or clear authorization under NMI law.

Since March 15, 2015, the Settlement Fund has required the Department of Finance to certify the amounts remitted to the Fund to pay for the 25 percent pension amount are properly appropriated funds under the Casino Law, and the use of which in covering the 25 percent pension payments is in accordance with all applicable CNMI appropriation laws.

Tang said Finance Secretary Larissa Larson also certified that the funds from the Oct. 15, 2014, pension through the Feb. 28, 2015, pension complied with CNMI appropriation laws.

In her Jan. 29, 2016 letter to Torres, Tang expressed her deep concern that the government has not been making regular payments toward the reduction of the minimum annual payments for the first and second quarter of FY 2016.

Tang said the government is required to pay $10.5 million for the second quarter, and to date, the government has only paid $1 million.

She said the government's payments have been unpredictable and irregular.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

matter what," Attao said in an interview on Saturday, a day after thousands of retirees failed to receive their expected 25 percent pension check. "I don't know where the magic number of $15 million came from. Is it right? I don't know."

Attao said he foresaw the issue coming to ahead and believes the situation could have been avoided if the legislature had acted on his bill, House Bill 19-21, which dedicated the entire $15 million annual fee toward payments to retirees' 25 percent pension.

In Attao's estimation, using the $15 million and then adding some $780,000 from e-gaming fee collection would have solved the shortfall.

"If you put that together with the $15 million, it's full payment for the entire CNMI."

Right now, the $15 million annual fee is disbursed as $2 million to Rota, $2 million to Tinian, and $1 million to Saipan, with $10 million to retirees' 25 percent pension.

The bill, though, would move casino money negotiated for Rota and Tinian to solve the issue, a move that Attao called an "unpopular decision" and what he believes has caused the bill, introduced over a year ago, to sit idle in committee.

"And I respect that, "Attao said. "They negotiated. I respect the process how we got there, but this whole issue has nothing to with the different senatorial districts standing by themselves—this is everybody in the CNMI."

"The bottom line is everyone is affected. It is a CNMI problem. We should work as brothers and sisters to help our people."

"I don't believe the retiree association were even given an opportunity to comment," Attao also said.

In 2014, when the Saipan casino law passed, the CNMI took the first and fifth year casino licenses upfront, a total of $30 million, as a retroactive payment for retirees for payments lost from the October 2013 to July the following year.

"We got 2nd, 3rd, 4th year left at $15 million. At the fifth year, we will have zero in fees because we already collected it in the first year.

But Attao's bill attempts to cover this fifth year "hole" by having the first year and last year, or year 40 of the casino license, cover the first $30 million forked upfront.

"We could have avoided this situation today. We could have avoided this if we had acted on 19-21. If we push it aside we will face this problem again," Attao said.

"It's like a monster that keeps peeking back up."

'For retirees, retirees but no action for them'

House Bill 19-21 attempted to address the retirees' issues, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said, because that was the "whole argument of the exclusive casino" on Saipan.

But, "here we are at 130-some bills [introduced in the House]. Here we are again. What is the leadership doing about it? We submit solutions and it's basically being ignored," he said, referring to Attao's bill.

A casino law amendment to clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and provide these regulators funding was passed since the time of Attao's bill.

But Tebuteb said the "whole argument when we were debating the casino law was that it was for the retirees" and urged action on 19-21.

"19-21 is getting older than Santa Claus," Tebuteb said. "There is that possibility of fixing things but our own elected leaders have a lackadaisical attitude because golf is more important than anything."

Still, Tebuteb, said, "We are all being blamed."

Saipan Tribune tried multiples times but failed to contact House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) over the phone for the House leadership's position on the issue.

Lawmakers were called and hammered by constituents over the surprise pension check delay.

Retirees who amount to over 3,000 people, with some 400 living outside the Commonwealth, are seen as a large voting pool.

Tebuteb also drew concern to the number of $15 million for the casino annual license fee.

Tebuteb said, during the time the bill was debated, a question was posed by then vice speaker Francisco Dela Cruz to the bill's author, current speaker Rafael Demapan on this $15 million number.

"How did the $15 million come about? Why not $5 million? Why not $50 million?" Tebuteb recalled.

"He couldn't answer,' Tebuteb said of Demapan. "Because they were just ready to move on and pass that casino law."

Uncertainty

The delay in the 25 percent pension payment came as shock to many retirees, many of whom first heard about the news through local papers on Friday, the day they were set to get their pension check.

Many in the families in the Commonwealth depend on the retiree check as subsidy on household income.

"It really affected us," a retiree, who resides in Kagman, told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I was telling my husband last night, maybe I should go out look for a job because I don't know how long is this 25 reduction," said the retiree, 61 years old, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution.

"But I don't know," she said, "I'm a sick person, I have health problems, I don't think I can guarantee to go back to work. I've been working for so many years, and now [am] depending on this salary we are earning,"

"I have already scheduled for what to pay," she said. "I thought the Retirement [fund] was back to back to normal…I just got myself a car. And now that it is reduced, I am worried. What happened? They won't approve my loan, if" this continues.

She said her and her husband's plan was to reserve half of their paycheck to pay for the car. "Now, I am worried, it won't be enough."

"I took their words already that it is back to normal but then now without anything, we didn't hear anything," she said. "I have a house to pay, a car, CUC."

"Yesterday morning, when the news came out, that's the time when we found out," she said.

FUN

From Page 1

"Festivals like this are good for local businesses here on Tinian. It gives fun and entertainment to all and at the same time gives income to the business establishments on the islands."

Saipan businesswoman Ana Cabael, the owner of Natasha Service Center, was among the more than 20 booths that are on the Kammer Beach grounds. She has been joining the Pika Festival for eight years now selling clothes and toys.

San Nicolas said he is thankful for another great turnout this year and the collaboration done by various sectors of the community.

"It was another great turnout. Foreign tourists are here. Locals from Saipan, Rota, and Guam are here. And the community has always been supportive of the festival every year. That's why I thank the [Marianas Visitors Authority] for continuously promoting these event," added San Nicolas.

Kids also enjoyed playing in an inflatable castle and going up and down the giant slide aside from cotton candies, pearl shakes, and ice cream. Their parents and other adults savored local cuisine and other favorites like barbecued ribs, hamburgers, and pizza.

A crew from Japanese broadcasting company NHK was on Tinian to film highlights of the festival, while tourists from Korea, China, and the U.S. also joined the celebration.

"I also thank the Tinian Mayor's Office staff, the Tinian Municipal Council, all of the sponsors, and the local community for all of their hard work for another successful Pika Festival."

Devin Cing was declared the elementary division kendama champion, while Brandon Santos duplicated the feat in the high school category. They wowed the crowd with various tricks and juggling techniques.

Kendama is a Japanese traditional game that has three cups, a spike, and a ball tied in a string. Various tricks, in order to land the ball on one of the cups or the spike, can be performed.

Cody Dela Cruz, Aiden Borja, and Jasper Borja finished second to fourth in the elementary class, while Edward Quichocho, Rafael Bantolino, and Michael Naputi were the other finishers in the high school division.

The pair of Emily Manglona and Rita Sanchez showed they are the fastest duo when it comes to husking and grating a coconut, while Lucia Ayuyu bested seven other female competitors in the hot pepper-eating contest—where they ate a spicy noodle soup laced with three tablespoons full of the famous Tinian hot pepper.

South Korean cyclist Kaon Cho, preparing for next month's XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman races, ruled the 65-kilometer Pika Bike race (see story on page 28), while Team J.C. Café won the dragon boat event.

Contest results in the Estofao Pika Cooking, beach volleyball tournament, Pikalicious J.C. burger-eating, umang (hermit crab) race for boys, girls sack race, tug-of-war for kids and adults, male hot pepper eating contest, and chacha dance are unavailable at press time.

The Heavenly Kids, Tinian Elementary School 2B Class Dancers, Dynamic Dancers, The Trio—composed of Nikita Mendiola, Julian Hofschneider, and Arlan Agadar—XO Dancers, Natural Hi from the Tinian Junior and Senior High School, HD Crew, YMB Dancers, Josh & Friends, Kelvin Atalig, Out of the Ordinary Band, Marvin Guerrero, Saipan Dance & Music Studio, Fire Squad Dancers, Dynamic Youth Group Ray Peters Cultural Dancers & Singers, and Luis La Porte were the guest performers.

CUC, 18 foreign workers agree to dismiss lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 18 foreign workers have agreed to dismiss their lawsuit against U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and other federal officials over the delay of CUC's petitions to renew the workers' Commonwealth-only Worker or CW-1 permits.

Plaintiffs CUC and its 18 workers and defendants Johnson, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship Director Leon Rodriguez filed on Friday in federal court a notice of dismissal of the lawsuit.

The parties, through their respective counsels, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit without prejudice, and with each party to pay its own costs and fees.

Dismiss without prejudice means the plaintiffs can re-file the case in the future.

Attorney James S. Sirok is counsel for plaintiffs CUC and its 18 workers. Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Sarah Wilson represented Johnson and co-defendants.

The parties did not specifically mention the reason in their filing of joint motion to dismiss the case.

But U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently expressed her intent to dismiss the lawsuit once the final rule on CW-1 permits, has gone into effect on Feb. 14, 2016.

Manglona said if CUC and its 18 foreign workers object to dismissal of their lawsuit over the delay of CUC's petition for renewal of CW-1 permits, even in light of publication of the final rule, they may file a memorandum in opposition to dismissal.

Manglona noted that last Jan. 13, the federal government announced that the final rule "Enhancing Opportunities for H-1BI, CW-1, and E-3 Nonimmigrants and EB-1 Immigrants," which amends the regulations so as to authorize continued employment for CW-1 nonimmigrants if a petitioner has timely filed a petition requesting an extension of stay, is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Jan. 15, 2016 and will be effective 30 days from the date of publication.

Manglona said it appears that implementation of these changes in the regulations will prevent a recurrence of the harm that CUC complains of in the lawsuit.

In plaintiffs' response to Manglona's order, Sirok said the conduct of the Department of Homeland Security's implementation of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' agency rule pertaining to CW1-permits, would only serve to heighten the need for the federal court's scrutiny and the issuance of a declaratory judgment on this issue.

Sirok asserted, among other things, that the U.S. Administrative Procedure Act allows any CW-1 worker, including the 18 workers, to continue to work until USCIS makes a final determination on that worker's petition for renewal (extensions of status/stay).

At the time of Sirok's filing of the response, 17 of 18 foreign workers who joined CUC's lawsuit, have received approvals of petition for renewal of their Commonwealth-only worker, or CW-1 permits.

Last Jan. 12, Manglona ordered CUC and the 18 workers to explain why their lawsuit should not be dismissed as moot.

CUC currently employs 34 nonresident workers holding the CW-1 CNMI only non-immigrant transitional worker status.

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Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

NMHC board notes 'high' delinquency rate of loan accounts

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is concerned of the high number of delinquent accounts for their various programs.

For their own programs alone such as the HOME Investment Partnership Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and Direct Family Home Loans, 84 of the 228 active loans are 120 days past their due. These amount to $2.9 million.

Although the percentage of the delinquent accounts, which is now at 37 percent has been going down, the board is still concerned of the amount of money that the corporation has failed to collect.

"I know you're doing your best job but the delinquency rate here is really a big concern for us because that's where the money is," board director Dave Demapan said.

"The magnitude of $2.9 million, that's huge," he added.

Director Ignacio Perez reminded NMHC's mortgage and credit division headed by manager Chris Pangelinan to do more diligence in their collection.

However, Perez also noted that it is their mission to help low-income families to have homes. He said NMHC should remind the clients of their obligations even before they reach 30-, 60-, or 120-day past their due.

"Your collection should be strong," Perez said.

Director Diego Songao also noted the amount of money and said that if foreclosure is the only option after all other processes have been followed, then NMHC should go ahead with the process.

Board members asked the management if they need help.

"We want to make sure that we can improve the system. Do you need help, something to turn this around? Do you need additional people or what's causing this?" Demapan said. "We need to identify the problem so that we can go from there."

Pangelinan, however, pointed out that a matrix of things affects their ability to collect such as the cooperation of those accounts holders. He said they are doing their best to reach out to the clients and also help them in ways such as restructuring their loans.

Some clients, he said, reached as much as two restructurings but are still not able to maintain payments.

Perez said they are okay with their staffing, "We're right-sized to a point but we can only do so much."

In an interview, corporate director Jesse Palacios also noted issues in their collections such as deceased borrowers and those who are inconsistent with their payment schedules and fees who are trying to "prolong the inevitable"

"They're just trying to prevent us from sending it to collection and then go through the process," Palacios said.

He added that they are making an effort to reach out to the delinquent borrowers.

"We are beefing up our collection efforts. We are making an effort to contact the borrowers especially the really delinquent ones to come in and talk to us let us know what's going on, what's the hardship you are facing," Palacios said.

"For those who just ignore the letters, we go there and they say they're going to come in and they don't do it then we have no choice but to forward those accounts to our collection attorney," he added.

Although Palacios said they try as much as possible to help families out, they also have to be sterner and more assertive when it comes to loan payments

"That was a finding also last year, when [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] came to monitor us, that we were not really following our policies and procedures because we are too lenient, giving them too many chances but at the same time, the leniency is affecting our audit," Palacios said.

SCfA needs more volunteers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Cares for Animals needs more volunteers that would help them in attending to their needs as more dogs and at times cats were either caught or surrendered to the animal shelter in Lower Base.

"The dog shelter is always looking for volunteers to help care for the animals, and more dogs and cats are always up for adoption," said SCfA president Jason Hudy.

"There are at least 20 volunteers who regularly walk and socialize with the dogs, and bathe and taking care of them. These are good dogs waiting for adoption and they need owners," Hudy added as dogs are always up for adoption.

Hudy said the Saipan Mayor's Office and donations, which came from the community and from the mainland, had been a big help with their operations. The Saipan Mayor's Animal Control Office catches around 10-15 stray dogs a week, while donations like leashes, medicines, treats, and harnesses come from various individuals in the U.S.

Hudy said medication and vaccination have done a good job in keeping the dogs healthy. They also had a 70 percent sterilization rate where a total of 227 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered in January.

"We just want to get the word out. Just promote awareness to the community about animal care and keeping their population in balance," added Hudy.

Last Feb. 6 and 7, SCfA held a mass adoption weekend where 42 dogs got adopted. "It was great to see so many families taking home wonderful new pets," said Spencer Marchadesch, the lead Animal Control Officer for the Mayor's Office Dog Control Program.

"The turnout is beyond what we could have expected, and the pictures say it all. Smiling faces for both people and dogs," added Hudy.

Hudy said their goal was to sterilize the dogs before putting them for adoption. All dogs that were adopted had been spayed or neutered in order to avoid any unwanted puppies.

"By adopting out dogs that are sterilized or 'fixed.' we can provide great pets that also will be part of the solution, not an added problem to controlling the pet population on Saipan."

For more information, visit SaipanCaresforAnimals.com or check their Facebook page Saipan Cares for Animals.

Unified response to unexploded ordnance at the Port of Saipan

SANTA RITA, Guam—On Feb. 12, 2016 the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Saipan, responded to a discovery of a WWII UXO at the Port of Saipan.

On the afternoon of Feb. 12, 2016, Sector Guam received a report from MSD Saipan of the discovery of a UXO located at the Commonwealth Port Authority in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan. The UXO was revealed during the excavation for a pipeline construction project. A Unified Command (UC) has been assembled which is led by CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the U.S. Coast Guard. A safety zone is in place around the buried UXO and the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police is ensuring the area is secure. The UC coordinated the deployment of a specialized U.S Navy Explosive

Ordnance Disposal Detachment from Guam, which is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, Feb. 16, to conduct further assessment and recommend the way forward.

The Port of Saipan will remain open to normal operations as the site is stable until advised otherwise.

Additional details will be provided as updates are available. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 02/08/16 **Closing Date: 02/22/16***

JVA#15-007: **Marketing Specialist I**
Annual Salary: $17,700.92 – $18,584.42**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#15-008: **Community Projects Coordinator I**
Annual Salary: $17,700.92 - $18,584.42**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#15-009: **Accountant II**
Annual Salary: $19,511.46 - $22,576.96**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#15-010: **Procurement Officer**
Annual Salary: $24,889.35 - $31,757.68**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#15-012: **Tour Guide Certification Manager**
Annual Salary: $30,000.00 - $40,000.00**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

* If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.
** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Participation Requirement

CNMI Public School System Special Education Program

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Participation Requirements, the Public School System Special Education Program is required to circulate for 60 days its grant application for Special Education Funds and allow 30 days during that period for public comments from the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of youth with disabilities. Hard copies of the Special Education Grant Application is available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the Office of Special Education Program, PSS in Susupe 237-3029

Public Circulation Period: February 15, 2016 through April 10, 2016
Public Comment Period: March 1, 2016 through March 30, 2016

You may also access the grant application on the PSS Website: www/cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction:assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Special Education Program office located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg. at the back of Marianas High School in Susupe, or phone your comments in to:

Special Education Program (670) 237-3029

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama, Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: M.D.U.T. Minor Child	**FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0017**
By: **BENJAMIN JOHN RAMIREZ SABLAN and ROSE MARIE ULLOA SABLAN** Petitioners.	**AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING**

Please take notice that a hearing is hereby set in the above-entitled matter on March 14, 2016, at 1:30 p.m., before the Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo, in Courtroom #205 of the Commonwealth Superior court, located at the House of Justice – Guma Hustisia – Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2016.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Teenager dragged by car during Susupe robbery

A teenager was injured after he was dragged 50 feet away from a car driven by a 25-year-old man who allegedly grabbed his cellphone along Texas Road in Susupe last Wednesday afternoon.

Police officers arrested the suspect, Benjamin Bok Lee, during a follow-up investigation later that afternoon.

The victim, a Korean, suffered a 4-inch laceration on his right hip. His Galaxy Samsung cellphone worth $1,000 was stolen, police said.

At an initial appearance hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the $10,000 cash bail that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio originally imposed on Lee for robbery charge.

Preliminary hearing will be tomorrow, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Lee. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that on Wednesday at 2:57pm, two police officers were dispatched to Smile Poker in Susupe for a reported robbery case that happened along Texas Road.

Pangelinan said according to the victim, he was standing by Smile Poker waiting for his friend when a brown Santa Fe car stopped along the road and the operator, Lee, was saying something to him.

The victim walked to the driver's window and asked Lee what was he saying. Lee asked him to use his phone, but the victim refused.

Lee allegedly grabbed the victim's hand that was holding the phone into the window and sped off, heading north. The victim had to pick up his body to avoid getting his feet dragged along the road.

After driving 50 feet, Lee released the victim's arm, causing him to fall to the ground. As a result, the victim's right hip was scraped on the ground.

A witness told police that he saw the teenager hanging on the driver's window and was close to getting run over by the car.

Pangelinan said that, at 3:23pm that same day, two other police officers spotted the brown Santa Fe driven by an Oriental man along Tupak Street in Susupe heading east.

The officers lost sight of the vehicle, but later saw the man, who was driving the car, walking along a road near Lake Susupe Apartment in Susupe.

The two officers pulled over to the side and approached the driver who was identified as Lee.

At 3:30pm, the two other police officers who responded to Smile Poker escorted the victim over to the other officers' location.

The victim identified Lee as the person who robbed him of his cellphone and dragged him along Texas Road.

Lee was then arrested and his Santa Fe with license plate ACW-402 was towed and impounded. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tasi Tours settles man's lawsuit over drowning of daughter

Tasi Tours & Transportation has settled a lawsuit filed by the father of a Chinese tourist who drowned while snorkeling off Managaha Island in 2012.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday dismissed with prejudice Xiao Ting Wang's claims against Tasi Tours.

Dismiss with prejudice means Wang cannot re-file the case anymore.

Manglona dismissed Tasi Tours from the case after the company and Wang asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit between them.

The judge said the court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the parties' settlement agreement in the event of a dispute.

The terms of the settlement agreement were not disclosed in court documents.

Attorneys William M. Fitzgerald and Rexford C. Kosack submitted the stipulation for dismissal in court as counsels for Xiao Ting Wang and Tasi Tours respectively.

Xiao Ting Wang, as personal representative of his daughter, Dao Wang, sued Tasi Tours and Win Tour. Xiao Wang, through counsel Fitzgerald, asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay him unspecified damages.

Manglona had already ruled that Tasi Tours owed a duty of reasonable care to Dao Wang.

"Whether deploying lifeguards to watch the area in which Dao drowned would have been reasonable…is a jury question," said Manglona in denying Tasi Tours' motion to dismiss Wang's lawsuit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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2016 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Local band the Trio—Arlan Agador, Nikita Mendiola, and Julian Hofschneider—serenaded the crowd with a variety of acoustic songs.

The Rhythm Boys compete in the Dragon Boat race.

Devon sings shows off some of his winning moves in the kendama competition in the elementary division in last Saturday's Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival at Kammer Beach.

Cody Dela Cruz, left, competes against Jasper Borja in the kendama elementary division. Dela Cruz was second.

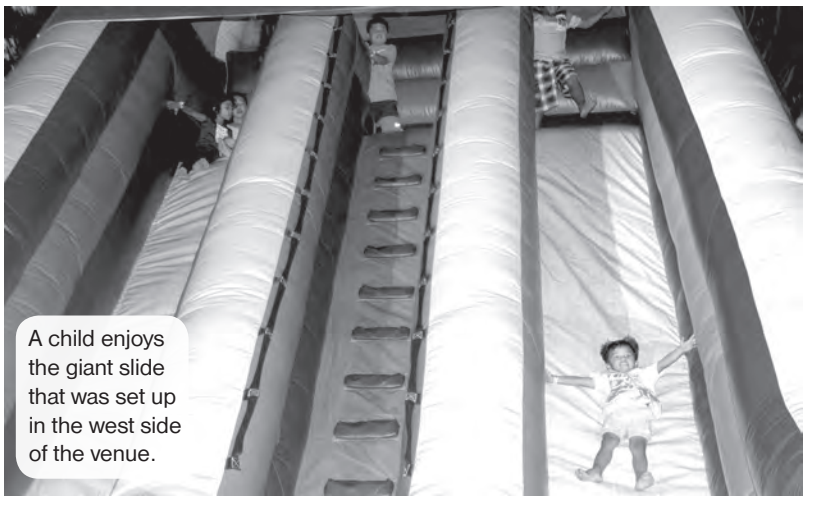
The XO female group entertained the crowd with a hip hop dance number.

Johnson Delos Santos, left, talks with Luis Mundo as Sheila Cruz busies herself in preparing her dish in Sunday's Estofao Pika Cooking contest.

Members of the Saipan Music & Dance Studio poses for a group photo after their performance.

A part of the crowd that watched the activities of this year's Pika Festival

The Natural Hi—composed of sophomores and seniors at the Tinian Junior and Senior High School—showcased their singing talents.



A child enjoys the giant slide that was set up in the west side of the venue.

Competitors in the female hot pepper eating contest wait for the signal before munching a bowl of hot soba laced with three tablespoons full of Tinian hot pepper.

Lucia Ayuyu raises her arms after winning the female hot pepper eating contest.

Aiden Borja finished third in the kendama elementary division. A kendama is a traditional Japanese toy that has three cups, a ball tied in a string, and a spike.

Ana Cabael yearly joins the festival and has her own booth that sells clothes and toys.

Joshua Q. Castro (Zoszengzung) and Fakiezero had a lively rap performance.

Carla Aldan poses with her entry in the Estofao Pika Cooking contest.

Brandon Santos, left, cheers on his opponent in the high school division of the kendama competition.

Cheryl Castro, left, prepares to husk the coconut in the women's husking and grinding contest.

Brandon Santos was the high school kendama champion.

One of the competitors in the kendama high school competition performs one of his tricks.

Rita Sanchez quickly grates the coconut in the women's husking and grinding contest. She and teammate Emily Manglona was the fastest pair.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Combatting opioid addiction a national priority

America is suffering from a pernicious and growing addiction to a category of drugs that include prescription pain medications and heroin.

Opioid abuse and overdoses take a lethal toll across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the U.S. death count at 28,648 for 2014.

President Barack Obama's welcome, if belated, response to this crisis would direct $460 million toward states to dramatically expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid abuse.

As the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute noted in a 2015 online briefing, medication-assisted treatment "can be a lifesaving and cost-saving intervention for those with opioid use disorder."

The remainder of the proposed budget authorization would go toward broad efforts to better train physicians on prescribing prescription pain medications and monitoring patients, tighten law enforcement on illegal sales and get an effective, lifesaving treatment for overdoses — naloxone — into the hands of first-responders.

Spending more to combat opioid abuse should be an easy call for lawmakers reaching for points of consensus. Addiction to prescription pain medications and heroin crosses urban and rural lines and partisan boundaries, and melds gender, age and income levels.

Treatment and care of those with opioid addictions is an evolving medical issue. No treatment of opioid use disorder is a panacea, as UW professor Caleb Banta-Green notes in a co-authored article in last month's edition of Addiction, the journal of the Society for the Study of Addiction.

But there is scientific agreement on ways to treat opioid addiction with methadone and buprenorphine, cut mortality and reverse overdoses.

As Banta-Green notes in an interview, medical science has the tools—they just need to be implemented. That includes, he notes, regular users of opioids and their families having access to naloxone for overdoses. Banta-Green, a senior research scientist with UW's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute and an affiliate associate professor with the School of Public Health, has been a White House science adviser and testified before Congress.

The opioid-abuse epidemic comes with manageable physical and brain chemistry challenges. Fundamental to it all is dramatic expansion of medication-assisted treatment sought by Obama.

Banta-Green emphasizes that expanding awareness and demand for treatment are key as well.

The growing number of Americans who need help makes it clear that failing to act is not an option. Spending money would save money in health care and law enforcement costs, and prevent physical, emotional and social trauma.

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The Father of a Nation

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

George Washington was asked, when he defeated the British forces and established a new confederation of 13 states, if he wanted to be called King George. I would have wanted to be a fly on the general's tent when that question was asked and be privy to the conversation that transpired. I only get my images from history books, and the short reply was, "No!"

We became casual, bordering on "disrespectful" when I called the first U.S. President, Georgie, Reagan's VP George W. H. Bush as Georgie I, and George W. Bush as Georgie II. I lived across the Potomac during the Clinton Years shortly before Lewinsky became a household name and then moved to Hawaii in Honolulu from where I attended an economic development zone conference in D.C. President Clinton and VP Gore bounded down to our group like a couple of movie stars, and were greeted as such; they had us for boxed dinner on the lawn of the WH one afternoon.

I was also Mr. Mom in Falls Church, Va. to two diagnosed ASD children while my spouse wrote policy papers for USAID so I got assigned to drive out-of-towners to Mt. Vernon. I frequented the Iwo Jima memorial next to Arlington Cemetery and the Carillon when USAID Mama still had her office in Roslyn and I delivered the eldest to empty mammary glands for lunch, waited at Iwo Jima's parking lot so I did not have to drop a Georgie on the parking meters.

The quarter's image of the renowned false teeth, his picture in the American dollar, and his celebrated persona in the town that bears his name (the American U was not too far behind with Georgetown), Georgie became a next-door neighbor and acquaintance.

It is the nation that he started that grabs historical interest as this unique experiment in federation and State's rights, and the balancing of powers between the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, is an emulated phenomenon worldwide, notwithstanding the fact that it took a century for the African slaves to be emancipated from the agrarian

South, and another century to make the gains real during LBJ Civil Right's legislation, a move that had implications on the other minority groups in the country, particularly the Asian Americans (China got the brunt of the prejudice with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that was not repealed till 1943) on the Pacific shores.

Not unique, colonial Spain executed many Sino-Pilipino for being a threat in number, dominating trade. CNMI indigenes understand only too well, the right to real estate is fundamental, protected by the Commonwealth Constitution until we diluted ancestral lands with the notion of public lands, a debate currently in progress in the CNMI. While this is not directly related to the Georgie of our subject, the nation he spawned had not been kind to its native population where they were driven to reservations and confined from the land that used to be theirs.

Half-caucasian Obama whose father was pure bred African rather than a progeny of the Deep South, was acceptable to cross the WH color line considering that he showed wit and native brilliance but the nation was not yet ready for a woman. That may not be for long as Madame President is poised to follow in the Oval Office after BH Obama.

The democracy that Georgie got started took more than two centuries to get an African-American to the executive office, a century and a half for the female gender population to vote, and perhaps, this time, we might be a democratic land where the individual is recognized for just being, a human with rights guaranteed and practiced as prescribed in its Constitution.

This year marks the 240th year of this democratic experiment elevating the commoner to be at par with the royals before the law. That it took some time in the doing is not to denigrate the intent. Lincoln reminded folks that American union began in 1776, in the Revolution against England, not in 1787 at Philadelphia's Constitutional convention, intent for each to have freedom of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as nature's reality rather than a tenet of constitutional law. America is still putting flesh to the skeletal vision.

With the frenzy over The Donald in current U.S. politics, we are asked to set aside the inscription of Emma Lazarus poem, the last part being in every U.S. history textbook:

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The poem was read at the unveiling of the Statue in 1903 but the inscription now read by visiting tourist of the Upper New York Bay Island close to New Jersey was bronzed in 1909. It defined the United States for more than a century until now that we rage over immigrants, particularly Islamic ones.

General Georgie probably never anticipated this; he lived when we were a mere 2.5 million in 1776 to 320 million people today from all over the world. We've come a long way, Georgie!

The toothless diet

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

I don't know why I torment myself with these observations, but I'll note that we're already more than 10 percent of the way through 2016. That's as good of a benchmark as any for noting our progress, or lack thereof, toward New Year resolutions.

I'll note one resolution that backfired on one of my pals. About six years ago he went on a serious diet, and he not only drank diet soda as a replacement for the sugary kind, but he also drank diet soda to keep his belly full and stave off hunger. He told me he'd sip diet soda all day long out of a big plastic cup, starting with his commute to work in the morning and ending after dinner.

Last year, he noticed that his teeth weren't in such great shape. After seeing a dentist, he surmised that the acidity of the soda had been eroding his tooth enamel.

I asked a dentist about this. He said that soda is acidic, so if you're going to drink one you should just go ahead a drink it down and not make a habit of marinating your teeth in it. That made sense. But here's something else: He said that soda isn't the only culprit here, and that many beverages are, in fact, highly acidic as well.

A factor called "pH" is used to indicate the acidity of water-based liquids, and is also used to indicate the opposite of acidity, which is alkalinity. It's a pretty common term. I remember a popular shampoo being advertised as "pH balanced."

So here's a good question for a bar bet: What does pH stand for?

I had to look up the answer. Here it is: "pH" stands for "power of hydrogen." This speaks to the underlying chemistry of the gig, which is, of course, completely over my head.

Anyway, you'd think that the pivot point of a scale would be set at zero. But nothing involving chemistry is ever that simple, apparently. We're up against the fact that on the great see-saw between acid and alkaline, the pivot point is level 7. So, a pH of 7 is neutral (that's what pure water is). The further below 7 pH something is, the more acidic it is. And the further above 7 pH something is, the more alkaline it is.

As for the alkaline (also called "base") realm, a few common examples of alkaline substances are soap, baking soda, and bleach. All I know is that when I put baking soda on my car's battery terminals, it fizzes up (cool!) as it neutralizes the acid that the battery seeps.

Like earthquake magnitudes, the pH scale isn't linear, it's exponential. A movement of one unit on the pH scale involves a tenfold change in acidity.

Anyway, having suffered to understand this stuff, we can now contemplate some rough pH numbers. I rounded up a few numbers from various websites, so this is just ballpark stuff to serve as food for thought.

Grapefruit juice is about 3 pH, so that sets a useful benchmark for us.

The pH of popular colas is about 2.5; the diet flavors are generally less acidic, ranging from about 3 to 3.4.

What surprised me is just how acidic many other beverages can be, such as sports drinks and other non-carbonated products. Some stuff that you'd think is a more tooth-friendly alternative to sodas has a pH of 2.4 or so, which is even more acidic than many sodas are.

The Web has a lot of information on this subject, much of it posted by dentists. You might find some interesting results by running a search for the stuff you're in the habit of consuming.

For the sake of context, I looked at a list of common foods, and virtually all of them had acidic pH levels, so that's just how nature seems to work. I'm not worried about this pH thing, but it still can't hurt to have a little awareness about it.

Tea is popular on Saipan, so I'll mention that a 2001 British Dental Journal study, "Tooth surface pH during drinking of black tea," concluded that black tea "may be safely recommended as a substitute for more acidic drinks as a part of preventive measures for dental erosion." The tea used in the study had a 4.9 pH, but the tooth surfaces quickly returned to their normal pH levels.

Well, now that we've taken care of this subject, we can start plodding our way through the remaining 88 percent of the year.

My mom's last Valentine

By SALLY FRIEDMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sally Friedman is a writer in Moorestown, N.J.

Mom was failing. She knew it. We knew it.

And through her last year with us there was the inevitable struggle to come to terms with end-of-life issues, even for a woman of 97.

The armamentarium of cancer-fighting drugs had been used up, and it was just a matter of palliative care.

Twice widowed and still living on her own, mom was spunky most of the time. I did my crying privately after many of our visits when I'd look at that sweet face and try to memorize it, trying not to let go of it ... yet.

Blessedly, the palliative medications worked, so my mother had the gift of her cherished independence and what is called "quality of life."

Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and New Year's Eve came and went.

And then along came Valentine's season. But those cherubs and red satin hearts seemed the last thing mom would have on her mind. Still, to my shame, I forgot to send her a card that year.

That shame was even greater when I got a call from her at dusk on Valentine's Day asking me why I'd sent her a card signed "Your Secret Admirer."

In the life of a 97-year-old woman, such a mystery was profound. Why hadn't I just signed it with my name?

I assured my mother that I hadn't sent that card. At first, she didn't believe me. Not even after I tried to convince her that, while I adored and indeed admired her, it was no secret.

Thus began a chapter in my mother's life that no one could have imagined.

Like a smitten teenager, mom began searching her high-rise apartment building for possible suspects. Might it be the elderly gentleman on the 21st floor who occasionally chatted with her in the laundry room? He was courtly, dignified and shy—a prime suspect.

Then mom called to report breathlessly that a certain gentleman had ridden the elevator past his floor to finish a conversation with her about a health-food store he'd discovered. Aha, she speculated. He might just be the one, since they both had an interest in soy products. Maybe not the stuff of glamour for the young, hearts-on-fire types, but plenty for nonagenarians.

And there was a younger man, the dashing 88-year-old physician who had moved onto mom's floor as a new widower _ another possibility.

When I visited, I couldn't help noticing that my mother had taken to wearing blush and lipstick, even when she was heading for the trash room. Her hair was carefully coiffed. And there was a light in mom's eyes that I hadn't seen in months, a merriment that reminded me of her decades before.

Somebody out there had admired her. And had sent a Valentine's card that may as well have said, "I've had my eye on you because you're special."

The guessing game went on for several weeks, and then, as her health deteriorated, less and less often. The card that had stood like a sentry on her nightstand disappeared one day. I didn't dare ask what had happened to it.

Too soon, her advancing illness took over my mother's life. Her sunny yellow and white bedroom began to resemble a dispensary. She grew more and more frail.

Mom never had another Valentine's Day. She died a few months later. And some of the hardest emotional work I've ever faced was sorting through her things, deciding what to keep, what to donate, what to simply throw away. Each decision felt like a stab.

Toward the end of the ordeal, it came down to just the things on a high shelf in mom's bedroom closet, and ultimately to a single box simply labeled "Treasures."

In it, my mother had placed pictures of her own parents, my father as a young man, several baby pictures of my sister and me, birthday cards from her two daughters, and the primitive artwork of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I wept as I went through the contents of that box, berating myself for not sending her more cards and notes so that her mailbox wouldn't yawn empty so many days.

And at the bottom of the treasure box, there it was—that "secret admirer" valentine.

It was in its envelope, somewhat frayed and worn, mute testimony to a great deal of handling.

I carried my mother's last valentine out of the apartment that still carried the faint smell of her favorite cologne, and gently placed it in a treasure box of my own.

And there it will stay.

Forever.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Presidents with disabilities

Today, we celebrate across the country the contributions of the 44 presidents including 10 that had disabilities while they were in office.

You may not know this but there have been many of our Presidents with disabilities.

I got the following list from the organization Ability Center at: http://www.abilitycenter.org/blog/disability-trivia-presidents-with-disabilities/

1. William Jefferson Clinton, 1946- (hearing impairment)
42nd President of the United States wears hearing aids.

2. Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1890-1969, (learning disability)
34th President of the United States. Leader of the victorious Allied forces in Europe during World War II.

3. Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, (learning disability)
Third President of the United States 1801-1809 and author of the Declaration of Independence. Remembered as a great president, a diplomat, political thinker, and founder of the Democratic Party. Reported to have many learning difficulties.

4. John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963, (learning disability, chronic pain)
35th President of the United States. Was the youngest man ever elected President. He was also the youngest ever to die in office. He won world respect as the leader of the Free World.

5. Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865, (mental disease)
16th President suffered from severe, incapacitating, and occasional suicidal depression. Also, thought to have Marfan Syndrome.

6. James Madison, 1751-1836, (epilepsy)
4th U.S. President 1809-1817, drafted the Bill of Rights. Often referred to as the Father of the Constitution. Played a leading role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 where he helped design the checks and balances system that equalizes the roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. He also created the federal system.

7. Ronald Reagan, 1911-2004, (hearing impairment)
40th President of the United States. 1981-1989. Also served two terms as governor of California. In 1932, he became a radio announcer for WOC in Davenport, Iowa and later WHO in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1937 he signed a contract with Warner Brothers and his first film was *Love is on the Air*.

8. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1882-1945, (polio)
The 32nd President of the United States and promised to create jobs for the unemployed and gave assistance to those in need. Suffered with polio and worked very hard to hide the extent of his disability.

9. George Washington, 1732-1799, (learning disability)
1st President of the United States. Was unable to spell throughout his life and his grammar usage was very poor. Thought to have learning disabilities.

10. Woodrow Wilson, 1856-1924, (learning disability)
28th President of the United States from 1913-1921 who is known to have a (learning disability) (dyslexia). World War I leader awarded Nobel Peace Prize for Versailles Treaty, 1919, domestic reforms included 1914 creation of Federal Reserve.

I share this information with you all in my community on this prestigious occasion to remember that people with disabilities have contributed greatly to the success of our country, and that people with disabilities can do anything.

The work these presidents have done to improve our country remind us that "Disabilities are a natural Part of the Human Experience" – U.S. Congress 1973.

For more on Presidents with disabilities, or any other disability related topic, do not hesitate to contact NMPASI at 235-7273 or 4, TTY & Fax at 235-7275, or online at www.nmpasi.org.

Happy Presidents to all in our Commonwealth, from your Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. AKA NMPASI!

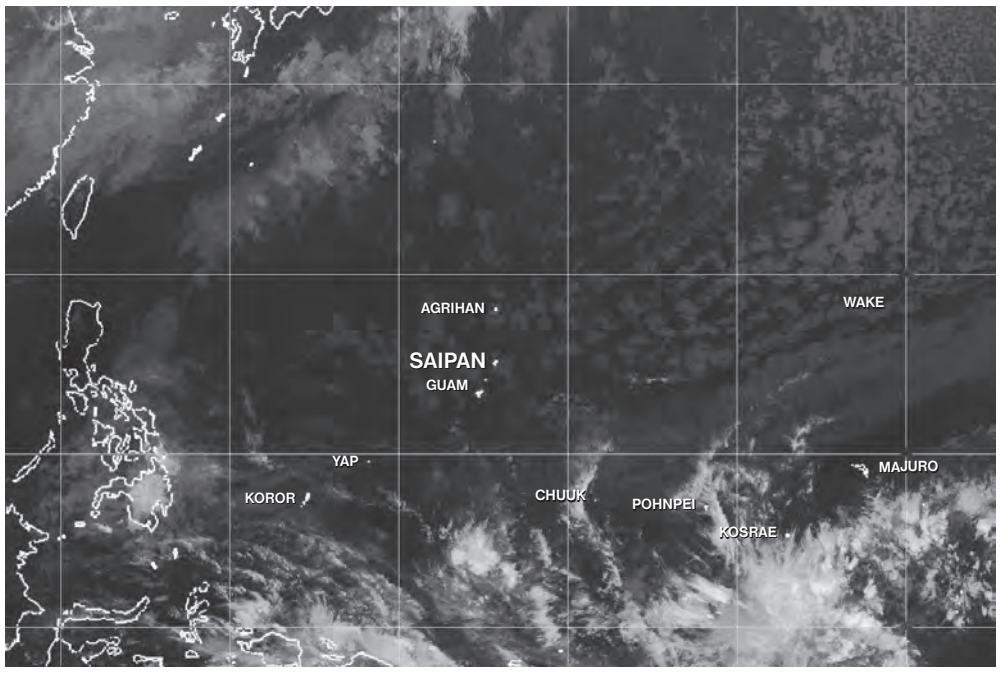
Thomas M. Thornburgh
Program manager

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N166E to 18N153E then continues as a shear line through the Northern Marianas north of Saipan to 16N140E and 9N130E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to about 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing cloudiness and areas of scattered light showers within 125 miles either side of a line from 9N137E to 13N147E to 10N153 to 13N158E including Yap and Guam but situated north of Chuuk. A trade-wind disturbance is generating cloudiness and scattered showers across the southern Marshall Islands south to Tarawa in the area bounded by EQ170E to Majuro to 1N180 to EQ180 back to EQ170E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲79	▼69
Beijing	Sunny	▲50	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼28
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Miami	Cloudy	▲76	▼68
New York	Ice	▲35	▼35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼40
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼31
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼29
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼21
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼35
Washington, DC	Ice	▲33	▼32

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:47 AM	2:31 PM
Tuesday	3:44 AM	3:31 PM
Wednesday	4:40 AM	4:33 PM
Thursday	5:36 AM	5:36 PM
Friday	6:29 PM	6:38 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Mt. Carmel School is 18th Annual Mock Trial Champion

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS MANGLONA II

18th Annual NMI Mock Trial Champions Mt. Carmel School poses for a photo with judicial and competition officials last Friday after the final round at the Supreme Court courtroom at the Guma Hustisia.

Mock Trial runner-up Marianas High School pose for a photo after the championship round at the NMI Supreme Court. THOMAS MANGLONA II

Mount Carmel School emerged as this year's champion in the 18th Annual NMI High School Mock Trial held last Thursday and Friday at the House of Justice.

The school's student attorneys and witnesses went head to head with Marianas High School's team in an intense final round in a standing room only Supreme Court. MCS and MHS argued the fictitious case of *Douglas v. Harrison* as the defense and plaintiff, respectively.

Jose Castro, Arron Cushing, Lance Deleon Guerrero, Zeno Deleon Guerrero Jr., Jaqueline Doctor, You Jin Jun, Kiyoun Kim, Angelo Manese, Justin Ocampo, Michael Roy E. Ortizo, Sung Hun Ryu, and Monica Aira B. Usi will be the Commonwealth's representatives at the national high school mock trial tilt in Boise, Idaho from May 12-14.

The students were coached by MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and adjunct teacher Kevin Bautista as well as attorney Joseph L.G. Taijeron.

Steven L. Hansen, a former judge for the Fourth Judicial District in Utah County, presided over the final round.

This year's championship was the sixth for MCS, which also represented the islands in 2013, 2012, 2010, 2008, and in 1999.

Kagman High School, Grace Christian Academy, Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School participated in the competition. Defending champion Saipan Southern High School did not take part in this year's tilt.

In his sixth year competing in both junior high and high school mock trial, MCS mock trial captain and senior Sung Hun Ryu was misty-eyed after hearing of his team's win.

He said, "Every year I join this competition knowing that the work load is overwhelming. However, I always end up joining not just to win, but to create a unique bond with the team and more memories."

"It took me a [while] to process the fact that we even won," MCS student attorney Lance Deleon Guerrero said. "It was too close of a round, and even if we lost, I would still be satisfied. MHS is a great team with great sportsmanship, and I'm honored to have just competed against them."

School president Guerrero, for his part, said that the team was "fortunate to go up against a team as good as MHS in the championship round because they brought out the best in our team."

He added, "If it weren't for them, we would not have done so well. Now, we look forward to representing the CNMI well at nationals."

He noted that in the history of the CNMI's performance in the nationals, MCS is the only team that has two national awards, once in 2008 for Letitia Cabrera's performance as a witness and again in 2010 for Anastasia Schweiger's performance as a witness.

"We're committed to doing just as well, if not better, in Boise," he said.

Bautista, an MCS alumnus and former mock trial champion, said that he is "more stressed as a coach than I was as a student." He added," We have a lot of talent and it was really a team effort and how everyone worked collaboratively that led us to this point."

MCS took home the competition's new "championship perpetual gavel" donated by the Office of the Governor and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

In his remarks Chief Justice Alexandro Castro lauded all the students, teacher coaches, and attorneys for their hard work and dedication. He emphasized that the winning team now represents the entire Commonwealth and not just their school.

"Go on and compete hard for the islands at nationals," he said.

Tinian Jr./Sr. High School bagged the Supreme Court Professionalism Award for exemplifying the guiding principles of advocacy—professionalism, courtesy, and respect to the judges, jurors, fellow participants, and the justice system.

"We worked hard every week to prepare for this and I feel that our team did our best in each round," Tinian senior Gerald Crisostomo said.

Plaques were presented to outstanding student attorneys and witnesses for the plaintiff and defense as well.

MHS' Robert Malate was named best plaintiff attorney while GCA's Yujin Lee and MHS' Olivia Hirsh tied for best defense attorney. Alvin Arcega and Tiffany Cayading won best plaintiff and defense witness, respectively.

The Mock Trial committee adopted a national competition tradition this year and recognized seniors who have distinguished themselves through their commitment in participation in the competition for three or four years. Rota students Raenna Mae E. Aldabe, Izzamil A. Camacho, and Antonette G. Sabangan received the new award along with Marianas High School students Angela Aninon, Alvin Arcega, Kadi Camacho, and Devonne Dotts. Sung Hun Ryu from Mount Carmel School and Odorico San Nicolas of Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School were also recipients.

It was the first competition for Rota freshmen Adina Reyes, who explained that her team conducted their practices with attorney coaches over video teleconference, which she said made it difficult to have smooth practices due to weak Internet connectivity. "We made the best of what we had and pulled through. We are really happy to be here and compete," she said. " I want to be an attorney one day."

MCS now awaits the announcement of the national trial case topic, followed scrimmages with local attorneys at the CNMI Judiciary in preparation for the national competition. This year's sponsors are the CNMI Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, and Public School System.

Event officials explained that Mock Trial creates a bridge between the students and the legal profession and provides students firsthand experience with the judicial system.

Bordallo announces Congressional Art Competition

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo and the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) today announced the start of the annual 2016 Congressional Art Competition. The Congressional Art Competition is a nationwide annual high school arts competition sponsored by the Congressional Institute and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. 650,000 high school students have participated since the competition began in 1982.

Congresswoman Bordallo invites all Guam high school students to participate in the competition. Each school may submit individual entries of up to 20 students for the local competition. All pieces must be original and not submitted in prior Congressional Art Competitions. All entries must be accompanied by the enclosed Student Information/Release Form with the required signatures. All entries must be submitted no later than 5pm on Friday, April 15, 2015 to the Guam Congressional District Office, located in the Capitol Plaza Building, 120 Father Duenas Avenue, Suite 107 in Hagåtña.

Bordallo

Additional information and 2015 Art Competition, additional information, forms, and samples of artwork from across the nation can be viewed at the official Congressional Art Competition website: http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art_competition/.

All artwork submitted will be judged by a panel of local artists. Artwork will be displayed in a local show on island and the winner will have his or her artwork displayed for an eleven month exhibit in the Cannon tunnel that leads to the U.S. Capitol Building. The winning artist will also be awarded a roundtrip ticket to Washington D.C., to attend the official reception for the Congressional Art Competition.

"This is a unique opportunity for our young people to showcase their talents and the beauty of our island," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "The Congressional Art Competition allows winning artists from Congressional districts around the country to have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol. I have been impressed by works submitted over the years, and I look forward to seeing this year's submissions. I encourage all of our high school students to participate and take part in the competition. I thank the Guam Council of Arts and Humanities and our sponsors for their support and I look forward to another successful competition." ***(PR)***

A gamble at love pays off

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brad Wilson and Winnie Terrado are flanked by friends and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. co-workers who served as witnesses at their marriage ceremony.

True love can indeed be found at work, as there is a significant trend of companies being supportive, to some reasonable extent, of the inevitable office romance. In industries employing personnel with people-oriented skills that offer a high level of social interaction on and off-duty, finding your significant other at the workplace is a most adventurous fact of life.

Brad Wilson, born and raised in Cadillac, Michigan, did not foresee that his decision to move to Saipan to work for Best Sunshine International, Ltd. as a slot shift manager would accede to a life-altering celebration. Working on a consulting project in Las Vegas when he was offered to come to Saipan to work at the casino, Wilson did not think twice about accepting the offer. About three years prior to that, Wilson was in Chile, South America heading a gaming consulting venture, and he recalls a strange coincidental moment.

"When I was in Chile in 2012, I was asked a question, which was, "Where would you want to live if you could live anywhere in the world?" And I said, "Saipan." I lived in the neighboring island of Guam from 1983 to 1985 when I was in the Air Force, and I remember being enthralled by the beautiful island of Saipan when I came to play golf. And here I am. Until now, it never ceases to amaze me that I'm living the realization of what I was hoping for; a job that I thoroughly enjoy despite the challenges, and the fulfillment not only of the home I envisioned in my head, but sharing it now with the woman of my dreams. For so many years I had a clear vision of what I wanted. It's fate that led me to Winnie."

Winnie Terrado, a native of the Philippines, is a long-time resident of Saipan. She helped run a Japanese restaurant jointly owned by her sister and brother-in-law before seeking employment with Best Sunshine. A bit on the shy side, this sweet lady is nonetheless always ready to dazzle guests with her cheerful countenance and helpful disposition. Hired as a rewards club host at Best Sunshine's players club, Terrado is required to have a work ethic that withstands the rigors of her job with unflagging congeniality. She says, "The first time I met Brad, I was sitting with other newly-hired employees at the HR department onboarding on our first day of work. He happened to pass by, and randomly talked to all of us. He was nice and engaging in a casual way. I remember that day clearly, he was carrying a backpack. I felt naturally drawn to him in an instant."

Brad chimes in, "It was love at first sight," to which Winnie concedes with a big smile. She adds, "I didn't realize it then, but I had butterflies in my stomach. The next day I reported to work, he was there working on schedules and going about all that official business of temporarily managing the players club with the slots department."

"That was a huge misconception about us," Brad clarifies, "that people assume that she worked for me," explaining the challenges brought about by the budding romance between the two. He recalls, "Initially, it was a balancing act that we had to go through because of the fact that we are both working at the same company. But technically, she didn't work for me. That was a difficult moment back then; we had to wait until her department was defined on its own before we came forward."

Shortly after coming to work at Best Sunshine, Typhoon Soudelor hit the island. Its aftermath unmistakably drew them both closer together; the hurdles that ensued prompted a natural concern to look after each other's well-being. "I remember lining up with her for five long hours at a laundromat for two loads of laundry," Brad says. "There was a long line of laundry baskets. It was hot and miserable, but we had the best time because we were hanging out together."

Rephrasing the mutual opinion of seeing the unexpected blessing in the guise of a typhoon, Wilson adds, "It was a terrible typhoon but somehow, because we were together, it didn't really matter. I've had my share of typhoons and hurricanes and tornadoes, and Soudelor was definitely one of the worst conditions that I've been in, but it was okay because she was with me."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taken at the couple's residence on Capital Hill. They share household chores as easily as they share their home and new life together.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson pose outside their workplace, Best Sunshine Live in Garapan.

After being proposed to by finding the ring hidden in a bag of her favorite chocolate, Terrado said yes. The couple tied the knot and officially became Mr. and Mrs. on Oct. 7, 2015. "He's very sweet, in fact, he's gotten even sweeter after we got married," she claims. "He never fails to give me little surprises that show he pays attention to me. He writes me daily love notes and still lavishes me with my favorite, chocolates."

This positive bearing spills over to their careers. "We're both focused on the success of the casino. That is our common goal. Best Sunshine provides a very wonderful opportunity for everybody to develop and diversify one's career," Brad says, emphasizing his own advancement within the company ranks to marketing analyst.

"Saipan is our newfound home. We have plans to travel and for me to show Winnie the world, but Saipan is a good place to call home."

So is that the happily-ever-after ending? Wilson replies with a smile, "This story goes on happily. It never ends." (***PR***)

Temporary water interruption in Gualo Rai

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the village of Gualo Rai may experience a temporary water service interruption next week as contractors fill the storage tanks that will temporarily replace the dilapidated Gualo Rai reservoir.

An inspection of the 200,000-gallon Gualo Rai tank revealed severe corrosion of the welded steel tank shell that threatens serviceability. The project was identified as a critical need for continued reliable water storage in the Gualo Rai community.

The tank replacement originated as a Water Task Force project and was later contracted to USA Fanter Inc. On Wednesday, Feb. 17, USA Fanter Inc. will begin filling each of the four 50,000-gallon temporary storage tanks that will service the area until the project's scheduled completion date in May 2016.

Customers may experience a service interruption during the construction process and reduced water pressure while the tanks are filled for the first time. Once the temporary tanks are fully integrated into the water distribution system, contractors will dismantle the existing rusted steel structure and replace it with a concrete tank.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Business

Documents show Volkswagen resisted Takata air bag recall

DETROIT (AP)—Volkswagen resisted U.S. government efforts to recall more cars and trucks to fix potentially deadly Takata air bags—telling safety regulators that a recall isn't necessary.

But the German automaker, already in hot water with the government for cheating on U.S. pollution tests, eventually agreed to the recall, according to documents posted Friday on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website.

Volkswagen AG is recalling about 850,000 Audi and VW vehicles in the U.S. from model years 2006 to 2014. But in a letter to the safety agency, the company said the request to recall most of the Volkswagens "may be overbroad." The letter said most VW and Audi vehicles have air bag inflators made at Takata's factory in Freiberg, Germany, which have not experienced failures like those made in the U.S. and Mexico.

The letter and lengthy negotiations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over how to fix diesel engines that pollute too much show a willingness on Volkswagen's part to push back against federal agencies when it doesn't agree. But in the EPA case at least, it's likely to bring millions of dollars in fines and perhaps even criminal charges.

VW's letter said both the Mexico and U.S. factories had problems controlling humidity, which has been blamed for causing the inflator failures. But deficiencies at the plants were resolved when a U.S. factory in LaGrange, Georgia, closed in 2005 and air conditioning was added to a plant in Monclova, Mexico, in 2011, the letter said.

AP

In this Nov. 20, 2014 file photo, Senate Commerce Committee member Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla. holds an example of the defective airbag made by Takata of Japan that has been linked to multiple deaths and injuries in cars driven in the U.S. during the committee's hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"Our understanding is that Takata's Freiberg plant does not suffer from the same deficiencies," VW wrote in the Feb. 9 letter to NHTSA. The German plant has air conditioning, VW wrote. "We further understand that the Freiberg plant enjoys more consistent personnel, adding to the stability of the product there," the letter said. VW did not start using Mexican-made inflators until the 2012 model year, according to the letter.

Last month NHTSA pushed VW and five other automakers to recall over 5 million additional vehicles after a Takata air bag inflator exploded in a 2006 Ford Ranger in December, killing a 52-year-old South Carolina man. The agency also cited test results that showed four inflators blew apart in a different model of Takata inflator.

Volkswagen uses inflators like the ones in the Ranger and the ones that failed in testing, according to documents.

At a Feb. 1 meeting with NHTSA, Volkswagen proposed a study to find the cause of the inflator problems, but the agency said it wouldn't agree to a study without a recall, according to other documents posted Friday. VW agreed to the recall seven days later, the documents said.

The VW letter, from Christopher Sandvig, general manager of group customer protection, said the company believes testing will vindicate Takata inflators made in Germany and at the Mexican plant after 2011. "We respectfully request that should such results be shown, the agency work with Volkswagen and other manufacturers to revisit the scope of these recalls," he wrote.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama to push trade agenda at summit with Southeast Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A summit next week between Southeast Asian leaders and President Barack Obama is unlikely to deliver any big economic prizes, but will allow the American side to press the advantages of joining a Pacific trade pact that doesn't include China. The meetings at Rancho Mirage in California set for Monday and Tuesday will be the first summit of its kind for the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations on U.S. soil. Its special nature is intended to show the Obama administration's commitment to countering growing Chinese influence in a region that is home to 620 million people and a $2.6 trillion economy. Southeast Asian nations have benefited from increased trade and investment stemming from their giant neighbor's economic rise but many are wary of China achieving overweening influence. The U.S., meanwhile, has an interest in maintaining freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, a crucial global trade route.

Greek farmers end blockade of central Athens in tax dispute

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek farmers protesting planned tax hikes and pension changes have left a central Athens square where they had been camped out since Friday but are vowing to keep protesting until the government listens. The farmers, who had set up 68 blockades with tractors and agricultural vehicles on highways across Greece, will convene Monday to decide how to proceed, farmers' representative Vangelis Boutas said. He said they also want measures to lower production costs, such as tax-free diesel, cheaper electricity and no VAT on supplies. Earlier Saturday, police estimated that 12,000 protesters marched to Athens' Syntagma Square outside Parliament to support the farmers. The march was called by unions allied with Greece's Communist Party.

Mediator: More progress in talks to resolve Argentina's debt

NEW YORK (AP)—A court-appointed mediator reported more progress Friday in efforts by Argentina to resolve a dispute with bondholders who claim they are owed about $10 billion by the financially strapped South American nation. A week after two of six leading bondholders settled their claims for well over $1 billion, the rest of them were completing a week of "intensive discussions" with high-ranking Argentine government officials, mediator Daniel Pollack said in a statement. "These discussions have gone late into the night and will continue. I do not know whether agreements in principle will be reached with these four bondholders, but I will continue to do everything in my power to see that it happens," Pollack said. He called it an "eventful week in the negotiations."

Facebook nude-painting case can face trial in France

PARIS (AP)—If you post a 19th-century nude painting on Facebook, is it art or impermissible nudity? That question is now cleared for trial in France, after an appeals court there ruled that an aggrieved user can sue the social network over the issue.

Five years ago, Facebook suspended the account of Frederic Durand-Baissas, a 57-year-old Parisian teacher and art lover, without prior notice. That was the day he posted a photo of Gustave Courbet's 1866 painting "The Origin of the World," which depicts female genitalia.

Durand-Baissas wants his account reactivated and is asking for 20,000 euros ($22,550) in damages. He said he's "glad" he has been given the chance to get some sort of explanation from the powerful social network.

"This is a case of free speech and censorship on a social network," Durand-Baissas told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "If (Facebook) can't see the difference between an artistic masterpiece and a pornographic image, we in France (can)."

The case is an illustration of the tricky line social media sites walk globally when trying to police explicit content.

"It's another hole in the fabric, at least in Europe, when it comes to users' rights running counter to the way these companies operate in the U.S.," said Steve Jones, a communications professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Social networks are going to have to be much more careful about how they interact with users and how they summarily make decisions about those users' accounts," he said.

Facebook has never provided any specific explanation for the suspended account.

"This case dates back more than five years and Facebook has evolved considerably since then," spokeswoman Christine Chen said in an emailed response to a request for comment. "While we are disappointed by today's ruling on jurisdiction, we remain confident that the court will find the underlying case itself to be without merit."

The social network's current "Community Standards" page, which Facebook revised in March 2015 to provide "more detail and clarity," states: "We restrict the display of nudity because some audiences within our global community may be sensitive to this type of content—particularly because of their cultural background or age."

Tour operators say Zika could be bad for Olympics business

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—If the Zika virus—or fear of it—keeps spreading, the head of a sports travel agency handling tour packages for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics fears for her business.

"It could be catastrophic," Jerri Roush, director of operations of Cartan Tours, told The Associated Press. "It's uncharted territory."

Hundreds of thousands of foreign visitors are expected for the Olympics in August, and there are concerns that some may stay away, frightened off by the mosquito-borne virus that is being linked to birth defects.

There has been a "very small decrease" in foreign tourists, the Brazilian tourist board said this week, though world health authorities have no restrictions on travel to the country.

"Zika already begins to damage Brazil tourism," read a full-page headline this week in Rio's O Globo newspaper.

Many of Cartan's clients are in Zika-affected areas in Latin America. It is the authorized Olympic ticket reseller for 36 countries including Mexico and much of Central and South America and the Caribbean—the heart of the outbreak.

Roush said there have been a few inquiries about cancellations, but Cartan managing director Jay Price declined to give specifics.

"We've had a lot of package buyers, some have called to question it," Roush said. "But I don't know that we've seen a drastic fall in our sales."

Roush said the Los Angeles-based agency expected to take between 1,500-2,000 visitors to the Olympics, providing hospitality packages that can include tickets, accommodations, ground transportation, and translators. She said flights were usually not included.

She said the company had a "no-cancellation" policy that was being reviewed.

Roush raised the question of liability if Zika harms the company's income. "Is Brazil going to refund us our money from this?" she asked.

Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes said on Friday, "We have to deal with (Zika), but there's a little overreaction at the moment."

Nation

In victory or dissent, Scalia was a man of strong opinions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia kept your attention, whether you liked him or not.

He was a big personality who rather enjoyed the spotlight, and he did not often shy from controversy.

Scalia deeply influenced a generation of conservative legal thinkers and was a lightning rod for criticism from the left almost from the moment President Ronald Reagan put him on the court in 1986.

A gifted writer who produced gems and barbs in equal measure, Scalia even occasionally took aim at his usual allies if they disagreed with his view of a case.

Scalia died overnight Friday. The justice, 79, would have been 80 next month.

Like all justices, he liked to be in the majority. But Scalia himself said he also liked writing dissents because that justice did not have to pull punches, as the author of the court's majority opinion must sometimes do to ensure his opinion keeps its five votes.

In dissent, Scalia said, he was able to write opinions the way they should be written. He wrote dissents that were entertaining, clear-headed, furious, sarcastic and sometimes just plain mean.

His close friend, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, once said that Scalia was "an absolutely charming man, and he can make even the most sober judge laugh." She said that she urged her friend to tone down his dissenting opinions "because he'll be more effective if he is not so polemical. I'm not always successful."

His dissents in cases involving gay rights could be as biting as they were prescient.

AP

In this Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007 file photo, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia smiles during his introduction at the Intercontinental Hotel in Cleveland, as part of a Cleveland Clinic speakers series. On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, the U.S. Marshals Service confirmed that Scalia has died at the age of 79.

"By formally declaring anyone opposed to same-sex marriage an enemy of human decency, the majority arms well every challenger to a state law restricting marriage to its traditional definition," Scalia wrote in dissent in 2013 when the court struck down part of a federal anti-gay marriage law. Less than a year later, federal judges in Kentucky, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia cited Scalia's dissent in their opinions striking down all or parts of state bans on same-sex marriage.

It was a mocking Scalia who in 1993 criticized a decades-old test used by the court to decide whether laws or government policies violated the constitutionally required separation of church and state.

"Like some ghoul in a late-night horror movie that repeatedly sits up in its grave and shuffles abroad, after being repeatedly killed and buried, (the test) stalks our ... jurisprudence once again, frightening the little children and school attorneys," he wrote.

Dissenting from an opinion forbidding states from executing killers who were 16 or 17 when they committed their crimes, Scalia wrote, "The Court thus proclaims itself sole arbiter of our Nation's moral standards—and in the course of discharging that awesome responsibility purports to take guidance from the views of foreign courts and legislatures."

He could be unsparing even with his allies. In 2007, Scalia sided with Chief Justice John Roberts in a decision that gave corporations and labor unions wide latitude to air political ads close to elections. Yet Scalia was upset that the new chief justice's opinion did not explicitly overturn an earlier decision. "This faux judicial restraint is judicial obfuscation," Scalia said.

Quick-witted and loquacious, Scalia was among the most persistent, frequent and quotable interrogators of the lawyers who appeared before the court.

During Scalia's first argument session as a court member, Justice Lewis F. Powell leaned over and asked a colleague, "Do you think he knows that the rest of us are here?"

He showed a deep commitment to originalism, which he later began calling textualism. In other words, judges had a duty to give the same meaning to the Constitution and laws as they had when they were written. Otherwise, he said disparagingly, judges could decide that "'the Constitution means exactly what I think it ought to mean."

Columbine shooter's mother says she thinks of victims daily

DENVER (AP)—The mother of Columbine High School shooter Dylan Klebold says she didn't know anything was wrong with her son before the 1999 attack, and she prayed for his death when she heard he was involved and that the rampage might still be underway.

In an interview that aired on "20/20" late Friday, Sue Klebold told ABC News' Diane Sawyer that before the attack she considered herself a parent who would have known something was wrong.

"I think we like to believe that our love and our understanding is protective, and that 'If anything were wrong with my kids, I would know.' But I didn't know, and it's very hard to live with that," she said.

"I felt that I was a good mom ... That he would, he could talk to me about anything," she continued. "Part of the shock of this was that learning that what I believed and how I lived and how I parented was an invention in my own mind. That it, it was a completely different world that he was living in."

Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris opened fire at the suburban Denver school on April 20, 1999, killing 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves. Another 24 people were injured in the attack.

Sue Klebold said in the interview that when she heard the attack might still be underway, she prayed her son would die so the violence would stop.

"I remember thinking if this is true, if Dylan is really hurting people, somehow he has to be stopped. And then, at that moment I prayed that he would die," she said. "That God, stop this. Just make it stop. Don't let him hurt anybody."

The interview coincides with the release of Sue Klebold's memoir, "A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy," which will go on sale Monday.

As teeth-chattering temps move in, officials urge caution

NEW YORK (AP)—Bitter temperatures and biting winds had much of the northeastern United States bundling up for the some of the worst cold of the winter—a snap so bad it forced an ice festival in Central Park to cancel and caused an Interstate pileup that killed three.

Officials urged residents to take precautions while forecasters warned that high winds in New England could make it feel as cold as 35 degrees below zero.

"These temperatures can be life threatening—especially for seniors, infants and people with medical conditions," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said. Stay indoors and take care of each other, he counseled.

Police said weather was a factor in a deadly pileup in Pennsylvania that saw dozens of vehicles—tractor-trailers, box trucks, cars and SUVs—tangled together across three lanes and the snow-covered median of Interstate 78. A snow squall appears to have moved through at the time of the crash.

But even as forecasters and elected officials urged caution, the frigid temperatures couldn't keep hundreds of people from jumping into the Atlantic Ocean as part of a Jersey shore resort town's annual Polar Bear Plunge. In fact, the waters off Sea Isle City may have been unusually pleasant: Organizers pegged the air temperature in the mid-20s, while it was about 37 degrees in the ocean.

Valentine's Day plans didn't seem to be stalled, either. Nic Faitos, owner of Starbright Floral Design, in New York, said he's anticipating about 2,000 deliveries this weekend.

He said his business double-wraps all the flowers to protect them. "If they fall below about 25 degrees they will start to freeze. The petals will become completely wilted," he said.

The bone-chilling cold did cancel horse racing at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia and at New York's Aqueduct Racetrack. The Central Park Ice Festival, which was to feature ice-carving artists and music, was also shelved.

ACROSS THE NATION

Suspect arrested in deadly stabbing of woman, 3 kids

NEW YORK (AP)—Police on Saturday arrested a fugitive suspected of stabbing his girlfriend and all three of her small children with a kitchen knife in a brutal attack at a hotel used as homeless housing, ending a four-day manhunt. Michael Sykes was last seen on surveillance footage Wednesday heading to the Staten Island Ferry shortly after the fatal attack, and a call to his mother to say he'd killed his girlfriend and was going to kill himself, police said. But he took the ferry back to Manhattan and had been traveling through Brooklyn and Queens. He was nabbed in Queens Saturday afternoon and brought back to a police precinct on Staten Island. He was arrested on three counts of murder, attempted murder and robbery charges. Sykes was in police custody Saturday night and couldn't be reached for comment. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

Skydiver dies after possible parachute malfunction

LODI, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a skydiver has died after crashing against a wall next a road near the Lodi Airport. San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office Lt. Steve Pease tells KCRA-TV deputies were called to the scene at the parachute jump center at Lodi Airport Saturday. Pease says deputies do not know if the accident was caused by a malfunctioning parachute or the operator. He says the person hit a cinder block that wraps around a neighborhood and fell into a drainage ditch. Pease says the FAA has been brought in to investigate. No information about the skydiver has been released.

94-year-old Navajo Code Talker's home gets major facelift

TUBA CITY, Ariz. (AP)—A Navajo Code Talker who was forced out of the home he built 60 years ago when it fell into disrepair is settling back in thanks to some extensive renovations done by volunteers. Dan Akee and his wife, Margaret, had been living in a trailer alongside the home in Tuba City for the past six years. But now a week into living in their newly restored house, the couple was celebrating Saturday with the 200 volunteers who helped them. Tribal officials first took note of their living situation and reached out to the Red Feather Development Group, a nonprofit organization that focuses on reservation housing needs in Arizona. Volunteers and donors pitched in to renovate the house for the 94-year-old Akee, considered a hero among Navajos. He was one of hundreds of tribal members who used a World War II code based on their native language to stump the Japanese. He is among 10 who are still living, according to Red Feather Development Group spokeswoman Norena Gutierrez.

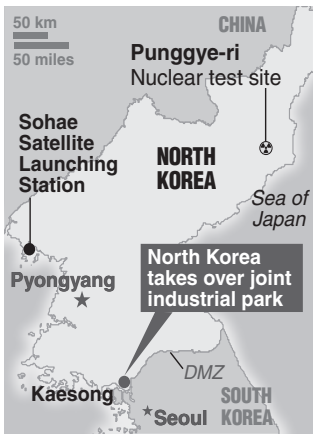
Asia

Seoul: Pyongyang used money from joint factories for weapons

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea channeled about 70 percent of the money it received for workers at the now-shuttered Kaesong industrial park into its weapons programs and to buy luxury goods for the impoverished nation's tiny elite, South Korea said Sunday.

The jointly run park, just outside the North Korean city of Kaesong and about 50 kilometers (35 miles) from Seoul, employed some 54,000 North Koreans who worked for over 120 South Korean companies, most of them small and medium-sized manufacturers. Seoul closed the park last week in retaliation for Pyongyang's recent rocket launch.

In a statement issued Sunday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said that about 70 percent of the 616 billion won ($560 million) paid to the North since the park was established in 2004 was used to develop nuclear weapons, missiles and for the luxury goods.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

It did not detail how it arrived at that percentage.

Pyongyang was able to divert the money because the workers in Kaesong were not paid indirectly. Instead, U.S. dollars were paid to the North Korean government, which siphoned off most of the money and paid only what it wanted to the employees in North Korean currency and store vouchers, the statement said.

AP

North Koreans ride in a city trolley in downtown Pyongyang, North Korea on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016.

Pyongyang responded to Seoul's closure by announcing a military takeover of the complex and seizing everything that the companies' South Korean managers were forced to leave behind.

The last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation began during an era of relatively good cross-border relations, combining cheap North Korean labor with the capital and technology of wealthy South Korea.

But Seoul is desperate to pressure Pyongyang after its nuclear test earlier this year, followed weeks later by a Feb. 7 rocket launch, which was condemned by the rest of the world as a test of banned missile technology. While the Kaesong closure will hurt North Korea, it is not critical to that nation's economy. Pyongyang gets the vast majority of its earnings from trade with China.

The last time the park closed was in 2013, when North Korea withdrew its workers amid escalating tension in the wake of North Korea's third nuclear test. The park reopened after about five months.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India disappointed by sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AP)—India says it is disappointed with the United States' decision to sell eight nuclear-capable F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan and does not believe such an arms transfer would help combat terrorism. The U.S. ambassador to India, Richard Verma, was summoned Saturday to the External Affairs Ministry where a top bureaucrat conveyed India's displeasure about the deal announced in Washington. The U.S. government said Friday that it had approved the sale of the F-16 fighter aircraft, radar and electronic warfare equipment to Pakistan. The deal would be worth nearly $700 million. India is worried that arming Pakistan with advanced fighters jets would tilt the military balance in the region. India has for decades accused Pakistan of harboring and supporting terrorist groups that regularly attack Indian targets.

Bangladesh begins survey of undocumented Rohingya Muslims

NEW DELHI (AP)—Authorities in Bangladesh have begun a survey to determine the exact number of Rohingya Muslims who have fled persecution in majority-Buddhist Myanmar. The director of the survey says Bangladesh's Bureau of Statistics began the exercise this week with the help of the International Organization of Migration. Alamgir Hossain said the survey across six districts will end on Wednesday and will be followed by a census of Rohingya next month. Around 33,000 Rohingya have been documented in two official camps in the southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar that borders Myanmar.

Bangladeshi officials say another 300,000 to 500,000 Rohingya remain unaccounted.

Chinese media in uproar over US move to honor dissident

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese nationalist newspaper says American politicians are resorting to petty actions following a unanimous bill approval by the Senate to rename the plaza in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington after an imprisoned Chinese political dissident. The Communist Party-controlled Global Times called the move Sunday provocative and said it's intended to outrage Beijing, although China would not consider it a big deal. "The U.S. has been at its wits' end in dealing with China as it is reluctant to employ military threats or economic sanctions that may backfire," the newspaper wrote. "The only option for Washington seems to be petty actions that disturb China." The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

115 bodies pulled out from Taiwan quake rubble; 2 missing

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Rescuers have pulled out 115 dead a week since a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan's oldest city of Tainan, leaving only two missing in the rubble of a collapsed 17-story residential complex, authorities said Saturday.

All but two of the dead were found at the ruins of the Weiguan Golden Dragon complex, which toppled when the 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck last Saturday just ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday.

A total of 327 people in the building survived.

According to Taiwan's Interior Ministry, workers extracted scores more bodies on Friday and Saturday morning. Two are still listed as missing.

Authorities have detained the building's developer Lin Ming-hui and two architects this week on suspicion of negligent homicide amid accusations his firm cut corners in the construction.

Tainan city officials said they will inspect several dozen other developments built by Lin, as well as other buildings in the Weiguan compound that did not collapse.

Earthquakes frequently strike Taiwan, but usually cause little or no damage, particularly since more stringent building regulations were introduced following a magnitude-7.6 quake in 1999 that killed more than 2,300.

US deploys more Patriot missiles in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States temporarily deployed an additional Patriot missile battery in South Korea in response to North Korea's nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch, ahead of talks next week to set up an even more sophisticated U.S. missile defense in a move that has worried China and Russia.

The new tough stance follows South Korea's decision to shut down an inter-Korean factory park that had been the rival Koreas' last major symbol of cooperation, but that Seoul said had been used by North Korea to fund its nuclear and missile programs. North Korea responded by deporting South Korean citizens, seizing South Korean assets and vowing to militarize the park.

South Korea on Friday cut off power and water supplies to the industrial park and announced that its planned talks with the United States on deploying the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, one of the most advanced missile defense systems in the world, could start next week. Officials say they have yet to set a specific starting date for the talks.

In the meantime, the U.S. military command in South Korea said Saturday that an air defense battery unit from Ft. Bliss, Texas, has been conducting ballistic missile training using the Patriot system at Osan Air Base near Seoul.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, commander of the U.S. Eighth Army, said "exercises like this ensure we are always ready to defend against an attack from North Korea."

"North Korea's continued development of ballistic missiles against the expressed will of the international community requires the alliance to maintain effective and ready ballistic missile defenses," he said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Korea couldn't confirm how long the Patriot missile battery from Texas would be deployed in South Korea. The U.S. military already has an operating Patriot missile defense system in South Korea to counter the threat of North Korea's shorter-range arsenal and medium-range missiles.

South Korean media have long speculated that the two countries are working on a THAAD deployment in South Korea, but it took the North's rocket launch last Sunday, which outsiders see as a test of banned ballistic missile technology, for the allies to formally announce they will begin the missile defense talks.

Beijing and Moscow are sensitive to the possibility of THAAD in South Korea; critics say the system could help U.S. radar spot missiles in other countries.

China's state media quickly made the country's displeasure known, while Russia also expressed worries about the deployment. North Korea has previously warned of a nuclear war in the region and threatened to bolster its armed forces if the THAAD deployment occurs.

In Munich, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with his Chinese and South Korean counterparts to discuss the response to North Korea's actions, including the missile system. In talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, Kerry expressed support for Seoul's decision to shut down the factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and discussed a broad range of potential sanctions against the North, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

Seoul and Washington want to deploy the system at an early date and the upcoming talks will discuss where and exactly when the deployment can be made, a South Korean defense official said, requesting anonymity because of department rules.

The official said the THAAD deployment is designed to protect South Korea from North Korean threats and isn't targeting China or anyone else.

The current standoff flared after North Korea carried out a nuclear test last month, its fourth, followed by the long-range rocket launch on Sunday. Pyongyang said the launch, which put an Earth observation satellite into orbit, is part of a peaceful space program.

World

Brazil's Zika-related abortion debate sparks backlash

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Before her son was born, Danielle Alves didn't know Luiz Gustavo would have microcephaly, a condition that has left the 3-year-old so disabled he can't walk, talk or eat without help.

Still, Alves says she would have gone ahead with the pregnancy even if she had known - and she thinks thousands of pregnant women caught up in Brazil's Zika virus outbreak should be required to do the same.

"I know it's very difficult to have a special needs child, but I'm absolutely against abortion," said Alves, who lives in Vitoria da Conquista, a city in the impoverished northeastern region where Brazil's tandem Zika and microcephaly outbreaks have been centered.

Alarm in recent months over the Zika virus, which many researchers believe can cause microcephaly in the fetuses of pregnant women, has prompted calls, both inside and outside Brazil, to loosen a near-ban on abortion in the world's most populous Catholic country.

But the pro-choice push is creating a backlash, particularly among the families of disabled children. Many have taken to social media apps like Facebook and Whatsapp, where more than half of Brazil's 200 million people are connected, to make their case. They argue that all babies, including those with severe forms of microcephaly, have a right to be born.

AP

In this Feb. 5, 2016 file photo, Daniele da Silva, who is seven months pregnant, poses for a photo as she sits inside her home in a slum of Recife, Brazil.

The Catholic Church and Pentecostal faiths, strong forces in this deeply religious country, have also been fighting back.

"Abortion is not the answer to the Zika virus, we need to value life in whatever situation or condition it may be," Sergio da Rocha, the president of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, said earlier this week.

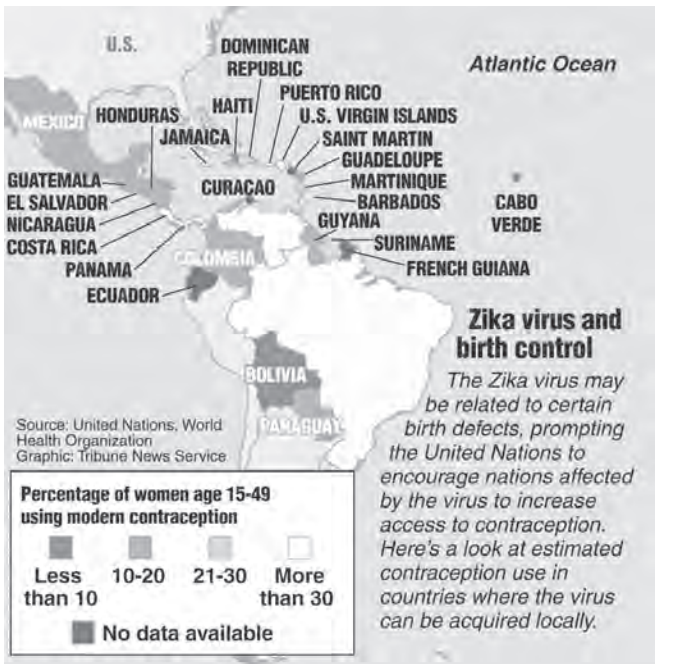
Abortion is illegal except in cases of rape, danger to the mother's life or anencephaly, another birth defect involving the brain—although in practice wealthy women in urban areas have relatively easy access to safe abortions in private clinics, while the poor often rely on dicey back-alley procedures.

The growing national debate is also spilling out into the courts, and will likely intensify in the months to come.

A judge in the central city of Goiania has said he will authorize abortions in severe cases of microcephaly. Some of the nation's top newspapers have also weighed in, running editorials urging abortion laws to be revisited.

"The most logical solution would be to revise the penal code relating to abortion, decriminalizing the practice. The legislation is three-quarters of a century old," the daily Folha de S. Paulo said in a recent editorial.

A prominent group of attorneys and psychologists is preparing a lawsuit calling for women infected with Zika during their pregnancies to be allowed to get legal abortions. The group, which in 2012 won an eight-year legal battle that succeeded in adding anacephaly to justifications for obtaining a legal abortion, hopes to take the suit before Brazil's Supreme Court early this year.



Pope to bring message of hope to gritty Mexico City suburb

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Pope Francis heads into the capital's crime-ridden suburb of Ecatepec on Sunday to see firsthand the reality of the Mexican "periphery," where drug violence, gangland-style executions and kidnappings are daily facts of life.

The pontiff is expected to bring a message of hope and solidarity to residents with a Mass featuring readings about not being tempted by the devil—a common exhortation from a pope who frequently invokes the threat of "the evil one."

The Mass is to take place at an outdoor field with an estimated capacity of 400,000, and the pope's choice of Ecatepec for what figures to be his biggest event in Mexico says volumes about his priorities.

The city of some 1.6 million people is a sprawling carpet of cinderblock slums mixed in with some better-off neighborhoods. It's also a strategic point for drug gangs that thrive amid poverty, unemployment and impunity.

It will be a strikingly different backdrop from the pageantry of Friday night's red-carpet welcome at the Mexico City airport, where President Enrique Pena Nieto and first lady Angelica Rivera greeted Francis alongside performances by folkloric dancers and mariachi musicians.

Conchita Tellez, 65, from the northwest Mexico border city of Mexicali, said she spent 38 hours on a bus to get to Ecatepec and was among the first in line for a spot at the Mass. She expressed hope Francis can help ease the troubled soul of the country, where 100,000 people have been killed and 27,000 disappeared in gangland violence since Pena Nieto's predecessor launched an offensive against drug cartels shortly after taking office in late 2006.

"The pope comes to Mexico at a very ugly moment," Tellez said, "and he comes to pray for us and for all those who lost hope and have submerged the country in blood and violence."

Syrian troops capture village near northern city of Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces on Saturday captured another village near Aleppo, tightening the noose around rebel-held parts of the northern city, Syrian state TV and an opposition activist group said.

The ground attack in Aleppo province sparked artillery shelling by Turkish troops at Kurdish positions as Ankara appears to be worried that Syrian Kurdish fighters and Syrian government forces might reach the northern town of Azaz that is home to a major border crossing point that has been controlled by militants since 2012.

Syrian state TV reported late Saturday night that Turkish troops fired five shells at the mountains of the coastal province of Latakia that recently witnessed intense clashes between government forces and Turkish-backed gunmen.

State TV and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said troops captured Tamoura on Saturday around noon, amid intense shelling and air raids by Russian warplanes.

Syrian troops have been advancing under cover of Russian airstrikes with the aim of besieging rebel-held parts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. If they are able to do so, it will be the biggest defeat for insurgents since the conflict began in March 2011.

After capturing Tamoura, the troops still have to take several more villages and towns, including Hayan, Anadan, Hreitan and Kfar Hamra, in order to completely encircle the Aleppo rebels.

Hezbollah-run Al-Manar TV said troops are now overlooking the town of Hayan and parts of Anadan. The Lebanese militant group is fighting alongside forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Al-Manar later aired live footage from an area overlooking Anadan in which Syrian troops were heavily pounding the area with artillery shells and white smoke could be seen billowing from several spots on the open area. Al-Manar has a reporter embedded with Syrian troops in Aleppo province.

Kerry takes aim at Russia over Ukraine and Syria

MUNICH (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday sharply criticized Russia for its actions in Ukraine and Syria, accusing Moscow of "repeated aggression" in both places.

In a speech at the Munich Security Conference, Kerry said Russia is defying the will of the international community with its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine and its military intervention in Syria on behalf of President Bashar Assad.

His comments came just after Russia's prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, told the conference that the West is rekindling the Cold War with sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine and with new NATO moves.

Kerry praised European nations for holding firm on the Ukraine penalties. He urged Moscow to act in good faith in forging a truce in Syria and to allow a political transition that would end the civil war.

He repeated allegations that Russian airstrikes in Syria have not been directed at terrorists but rather at moderate opposition groups supported by the U.S. and its European and Arab partners. Kerry also said that Russia would have to change tactics if an agreement Friday for a temporary truce in Syria is to actually take effect in a week.

"To date, the vast majority, in our opinion, of Russia's attacks have been against legitimate opposition groups and to adhere to the agreement it made, we think it is critical that Russia's targeting change," Kerry said. "If people who want to be part of the conversation are being bombed, we're not going to have much of a process."

Kerry added that the only way to end the Syrian conflict and ultimately defeat the Islamic State group is a political transition that removes Assad from power.

"Some argue that the reason humanitarian access has been denied and indiscriminate bombing continues is because Assad and his allies, including Russia, might believe that by defying the will of the international community, they can win the war," he said. "If that is what Russia and Assad think, then I believe they would have been missing the lessons of the last five years."

The opposition "may be pushed back here and there but they are not going to surrender," Kerry said.

On Ukraine, Kerry said Russia would continue to be subject to sanctions until it and the rebels it supports in the east come into full compliance with a political agreement reached last year in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

"Russia has a simple choice: fully implement Minsk or continue to face economically damaging sanctions," he said.

Health & Fitness

Celis completes Latte Built challenge

JON PEREZ

Everest Kitchen owner Laxmi Shrestha demonstrates how to cook a healthy dish using ingredients that are available on the island.

JON PEREZ

Guests who attended last Saturday's Latte Built customer appreciation night watch as Everest Kitchen owner Laxmi Shrestha prepares a healthy meal.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank Celis did not only win Latte Built owner Derek Cutting's fat loss challenge but he also succeeded in taking the first step toward having a healthier lifestyle. He was among Cutting's eight students that answered the personal trainer's call of changing their lifestyle last month.

Celis bested five others after two pulled out. He had a 28.4 percent body fat at the start of the weigh-in last month but ended up with 17.9 percent, losing 10.5 percent.

He has been with Latte Built two months after it opened in April 2015 but he found little success after five months.

"I thought I was doing things right. I was exercising and been religiously following Derek's program but it turns out the way I eat, my eating habits and pattern, was not right," said Celis, who received $50 and a month's free one-on-one training with Cutting.

"That's why I joined the challenge. Stayed committed with the fitness program and started eating right. I worked hard and stayed focus. I'm happy with the result," he added.

JON PEREZ

Chicken breast in tomato basil sauce paired with a cucumber, eggplant, and tofu side dish.

He, along with the other contestants and guests that attended the customer appreciation night last Saturday, further learned about cooking delicious healthy food with the help of Everest Kitchen owner Laxmi Shrestha.

Shrestha showed how to prepare simple, cheap, and healthy recipes that everyone could cook in their homes using fresh ingredients that are available on Saipan. She whipped up an easy-to-make vegetable side dish that is best paired with a boneless and skinless chicken breast.

The only ingredients are bell peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, and tofu. She combined all ingredients and sautéed it in olive oil. After a few minutes, she added lemon juice then topped it off with mint and parsley.

"This is simple, cheap, and anyone can cook it at home. This is a clean and healthy way to eat," said Shrestha. "(Culinary) herbs are food additives and before we grow our own but Typhoon Soudelor messed things up," she added.

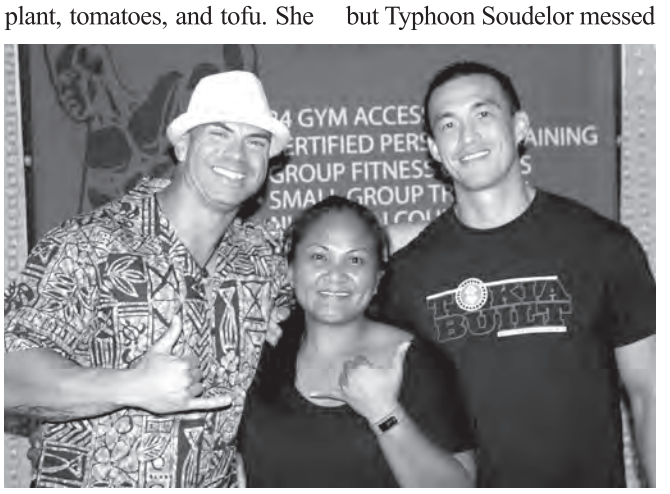
"Who said that eating healthy food is not delicious? You can find ways to eat healthy but affordable food here on the island," said Cutting, a bodybuilder and certified personal trainer. James Lee and Cleo Nening helped him oversee the boot camps.

Mike Busby finished second behind Celis to settle for $20 and two weeks of free one-on-one training with Cutting, while Jatanna Sherise went home with an additional $15.

Aside from assigning workouts for the day, Cutting also focused on teaching the basics of nutrition by making basic meal plans for each week. The meals are high in protein, low in carbohydrates, and moderate in good fats.

JON PEREZ

Latte Built challenge winner Frank Celis, center, with runner-up Mike Busby, right, and instructor Derek Cuting.



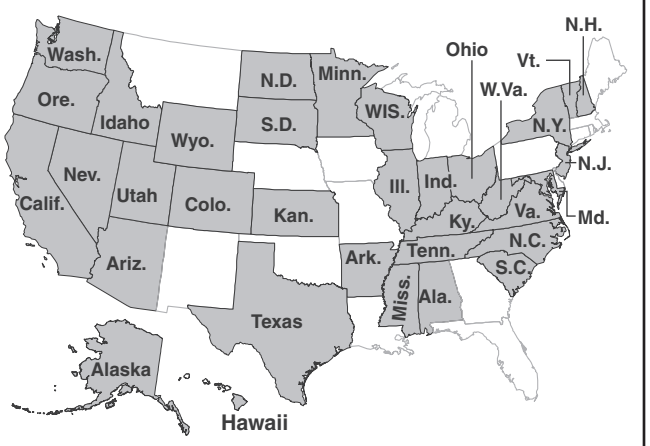
JON PEREZ

Latte Built owner Derek Cutting, left, and boot camp trainers Cleo Nening and James Lee.

E-cigarettes to be regulated

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration plans to begin regulating electronic cigarettes for the first time, banning sales to minors and requiring manufacturers to put health warnings on the nicotine-delivering devices that have become a multibillion-dollar industry.

States that regulate e-cigarettes or vaping/alternative tobacco products



Possible implications if e-cigarettes are considered tobacco products by the FDA

Age and sales restrictions on tobacco products

- Require proof of age to purchase these tobacco products; the federal minimum age to purchase is 18
- Require face-to-face sales, with certain exemptions for vending machines and self-service displays in adult-only facilities
- Ban the sale of packages of fewer than 20 cigarettes
- Allow certain exemptions in adult-only facilities

Marketing/warning label proposals for e-cigarettes

- Require warning labels about the addictive characteristics of e-cigarettes
- Prohibit companies from making health-related claims on e-cigarettes, particularly on their potential to help with tobacco cessation, without scientific backing and prior FDA approval
- No ban on online sales
- No ban on characterizing flavors
- No ban on TV ads

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, FDA
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Life & Style

'Spotlight,' 'Big Short' win Writers Guild of America awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar contenders "Spotlight" and "The Big Short" won the top awards for screenwriting from the Writers Guild of America at a ceremony Saturday that was held in Los Angeles and New York.

"Spotlight," about the Boston Globe's effort to uncover a priest sex-abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, won for best original screenplay. The writers are Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy.

"The Big Short," about the 2008 financial crisis, won for best adapted screenplay. Writers Charles Randolph and Adam McKay wrote a screenplay adapted from the book of the same title by Michael Lewis.

In the television categories, the now-concluded AMC series "Mad Men" about the advertising business in the 1960s and 1970s, won for drama. The writers honored are by Lisa Albert, Semi Chellas, Jonathan Igla, Janet Leahy, Erin Levy, Tom Smuts, Robert Towne, Matthew Weiner and Carly Wray.

AP

This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows, Rafe Spall, from left, Jeremy Strong, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling and Jeffry Griffin in the film, "The Big Short."

The HBO series "Veep," about the exploits of politician Selina Meyer, won for comedy. The writers honored are Simon Blackwell, Jon Brown, Kevin Cecil, Roger Drew, Peter Fellows, Neil Gibbons, Rob Gibbons, Sean Gray, Callie Hersheway, Armando Iannucci, Sean Love, Ian Martin, Georgia Pritchett, David Quantick, Andy Riley, Tony Roche and Will Smith.

Other winners included:

NEW SERIES: "Mr. Robot," on the USA network, written by Kyle Bradstreet, Kate Erickson, Sam Esmail, David Iserson, Randolph Leon, Adam Penn and Matt Pyken.

ORIGINAL LONG FORM SERIES: "Saints & Strangers," on the National Geographic Channel, written by Seth Fisher, Walon Green, Chip Johannessen and Eric Overmyer.

ADAPTED LONG FORM SERIES: "Fargo,"on the FX network, written by Steve Blackman, Bob DeLaurentis, Noah Hawley, Ben Nedivi and Matt Wolpert.

EPISODIC DRAMA: "Uno" from the "Better Call Saul" series, on the AMC network, written by Vince Gilligan and Peter Gould.

EPISODIC COMEDY: "Sand Hill Shuffle" from the "Silicon Valley" series, on the HBO network, written by Clay Tarver.

Documentary 'Fire at Sea' opens at Berlin Film Festival

BERLIN (AP)—The director of "Fire at Sea"—a documentary about the Italian island of Lampedusa, where thousands of asylum-seekers have been arriving from lawless Libya—says he wanted "to show the tragedy that's playing out in front of our eyes ... We're all responsible."

Director Gianfranco Rosi spoke after the film was screened Saturday at the Berlin International Film Festival, where it is one of two documentaries in competition for the prestigious Golden Bear award.

The Italian director contrasts the native islanders' everyday life with the arrival of the many men, women and children making the dangerous trip from Africa across the Mediterranean Sea on decrepit smugglers' boats. Longing for freedom and prosperity, many of the migrants drown on the perilous passage to Europe, their dead bodies often pulled out of the water in Lampedusa.

AP

Director Gianfranco Rosi attends a press conference for the competition film 'Fire At Sea' at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016.

Rosi brings the viewer closer to the emotional world of some of the island's inhabitants, who are exposed to a permanent state of emergency. He also shows the dead bodies of those who did not survive the journey to Europe.

"This may be one of the biggest tragedies after the Holocaust that we are currently witnessing," Rosi said.

One of the film's protagonists, Pietro Bartolo, told the audience that he's been dealing with arriving refugees since they first started coming in the 1990s.

Head of BAFTA: Film industry not diverse enough

LONDON (AP)—The head of the British Academy Film and Television Awards says its annual ceremony does not feature more ethnic minority nominees because the film industry itself is not diverse enough.

Amanda Berry says she supports a peaceful protest against the lack of diversity outside the star-studded event, being held in London on Sunday.

Berry told the Daily Telegraph newspaper that not enough movies are made with diverse talent so "the pool of people to draw award winners from isn't diverse enough." She added that "people can only vote on what they've seen."

Her comments follow a controversy surrounding racial diversity at the Oscars.

Two black actors have been nominated for BAFTAs this year: Idris Elba for best supporting actor and "Star Wars" actor John Boyega for a rising star award.

Munn, Segel help film academy honor inventors, engineers

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Subjects like rapid prototyping, 3-D texture painting and the intricacies of digital media review systems became comic material Saturday for Olivia Munn and Jason Segel, hosts of the film academy's Scientific and Technical Awards. Or at least they tried their best.

With enthusiastic explanations laden with high-tech lingo, the two actors brought levity to the annual ceremony honoring the inventors, engineers and technicians behind advances in filmmaking technology. Segel called them "the magicians who can bring (creative) visions to life."

Representing the "science" part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the work of the 11 groups recognized during the untelevised dinner celebration at the Beverly Wilshire hotel is highly specialized—mostly tools for viewing, sharing and manipulating digital media—but it has contributed to countless hit films.

Here's a look at some of the films that benefited from the inventions recognized at the Sci-Tech Awards.

■ "The Avengers": The Marvel superhero smash is one of many action films to make use of the Aircover Inflatables Airwall, a giant, inflatable panel that becomes an instant green-screen for special effects.

■ "Guardians of the Galaxy": The many artists on this film used Sony Pictures Imageworks Itview, a media review system, to share working footage globally.

■ "Kung Fu Panda": Hit DreamWorks Animation franchises such as "Shrek" and "Kung Fu Panda" benefited from a proprietary media playback system recognized Saturday.

■ "Django Unchained": Quentin Tarantino's film relied on the Rhythm & Hues Global DRR System, another media-review platform.

■ "Saving Private Ryan": Shaky scenes in Steven Spielberg's 1998 film relied on the award-winning optical system called the Image Shaker.

■ "Avatar": The academy also recognized the design and engineering of the MARI 3-D texture painting system, a super high-resolution drawing and painting program developed for "Avatar."

■ "Star Wars: The Force Awakens": The Industrial Light and Magic Geometry Tracker, a tracking system that links an actor's performance with animation, was used to create Lupita Nyong'o's character, Maz Kanata.

Czech designer, architect Borek Sipek dies at age 66

PRAGUE (AP)—Borek Sipek, Czech architect and designer best known in his country for his work for late President Vaclav Havel has died. He was 66.

Prague's Vaclav Havel Library announced Sipek's death Saturday. No cause was given but he was recently battling pancreas cancer.

Sipek emigrated from communist Czechoslovakia after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that crushed the liberal reforms known as the Prague Spring. He studied architecture in Germany before establishing a studio in the Netherlands.

He cooperated with a number of brands, including Driade, Wittmann, Swarovski, Leitner, Quartet, Vitra, Sevres, Saint-Gobain and Rosenthal.

After the 1989 anti-Communist Velvet Revolution led by Havel, his friend, Sipek became the chief architect at the Prague Castle, the seat of presidency. There he created chandeliers, furniture and some new entrances.

Rihanna hits the runway — this time, as designer

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna is certainly used to stopping the show, whether as a performer or as a fashion figure whose daring choices can make headlines.

But at New York Fashion Week on Friday, she let her models make the splashy entrances. After all, she was the designer this time.

The singer presented her Fenty Puma by Rihanna collection, heavy on Japanese-inspired streetwear in almost exclusively black and white, with, she said, "a Gothic undertone." As befitting a collection for Puma, it of course featured sneakers, many with high stacked platforms.

In an interview before the show, which was staged in a dark, mirrored, forest-like setting filled with stage smoke, Rihanna spoke about what motivates her to design.

"I think design is a part of being creative," she told The Associated Press. "I enjoy creating and expressing the crazy things going on in my mind through something that people can see and that is tangible. That is the best part, being able to express yourself.

"Fashion to me was just one of those things that came naturally," she said. "I enjoy discovering it—all the different styles, finishes, fabrics, silhouettes. It's not easy, but it doesn't feel like work."

AP

Rihanna greets the audience after FENTY PUMA by Rihanna is shown during New York Fashion Week, Friday, Feb. 12, 2016.

Cosby's lawyers try again to get his sex assault case tossed

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Lawyers for Bill Cosby tried again Friday to have his criminal sex-assault case dismissed, asking an appeals court to consider whether Cosby had a binding agreement that he would never be charged.

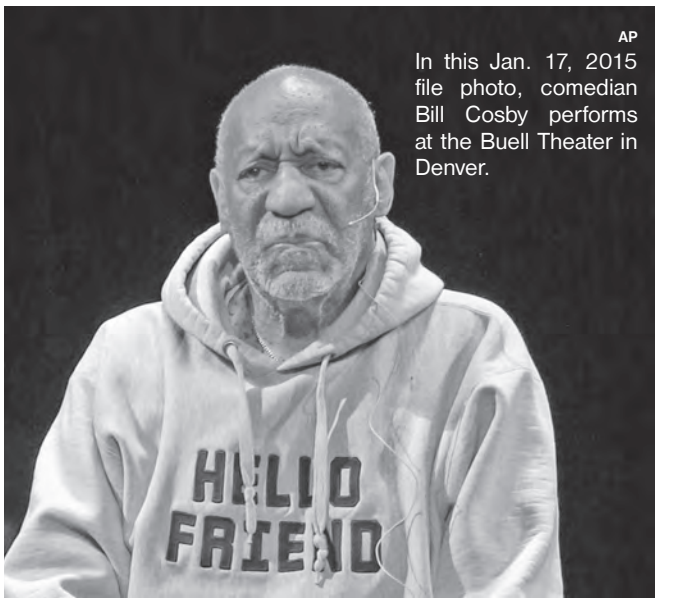
Defense lawyers argue that Cosby had a promise from a former prosecutor that he wouldn't be charged over the 2004 encounter with a Temple University employee and should therefore testify in the woman's civil lawsuit.

He did, in a deposition unsealed last year that prompted a new prosecutor to reopen the case before the 12-year statute of limitations expired. Cosby said under oath that he gave the accuser three pills before engaging in sexual contact that he called consensual. He also acknowledged getting prescriptions for quaaludes so he could give them to women he hoped to seduce.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele filed felony sexual assault charges against Cosby in late December, based on new evidence that included the deposition testimony and the dozens of other accusers who have come forward since to say that Cosby drugged and molested them. Cosby has denied wrongdoing.

A key question if the criminal case goes to trial is whether the other women's testimony or the lengthy Cosby deposition could be used in court.

But defense lawyers hope the case ends long before then.



AP

In this Jan. 17, 2015 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs at the Buell Theater in Denver.

Lawyer Brian McMonagle filed the appeal notice Friday to the state Superior Court. He also appealed a judge's decision to not disqualify Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele.

Ai Weiwei art project in Berlin features refugee life vests

BERLIN (AP)—An art installation by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei in Berlin showcases thousands of used life vests by refugees from the Greek island of Lesbos.

The bright orange vests were wrapped around the pillars of the city's Konzerthaus by the artist's team Saturday to highlight the plight of the hundreds of refugees trying to reach Europe every day by sea from Turkey.

Municipal authorities on Lesbos said they'd given some 14,000 life vests to Ai for his art project. Ai has repeatedly visited Lesbos since the refugee crisis started.

Tens of thousands of life vests remain strewn on the island's beaches and at a landfill near its north coast where most landings occur.

Hong Kong hosts Valentine's Day with 25,000 LED roses

HONG KONG (AP)—It's like a romantic scene out of one of South Korea's sappy soap dramas—tens of thousands of illuminated roses forming an impressive backdrop for the lead actor and actress to declare their love for each other.

The Light Rose Garden, a public art installation featuring a sea of white roses made with light-emitting diode, or LED, is also a perfect venue for Valentine's Day in Hong Kong.

Originating in South Korea, the Light Rose Garden is on a world tour with its first stop in the southern Chinese city.

Organizer Jung Yong Jin said he's thrilled to see people outside of Seoul enjoying the garden, made up of 25,000 waterproof white roses arranged tightly in Hong Kong's landmark Central and Western District Promenade, with 25 roses planted every 3 square meters (yards).

AP

A woman takes a selfie in front of the LED lights roses at the "Light Rose Garden" in Hong Kong, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016.

The roses light up each night and instantly illuminate the park against the backdrop of Hong Kong's skyline. Couples, families and friends flock to take photos.

"I created this LED rose garden because I wanted families, friends and lovers to come out to parks at night," Jung said.

A woman from Taiwan, who was visiting with her boyfriend, said the romantic setting reminded her of Korean dramas.

Working mom feels tug of guilt for leaving young son at home

DEAR ABBY: I have been working for four years. I need to work to help my husband financially. However, over the last few months, I've felt torn about not being a stay-at-home mom.

My grandmother, who is in her 70s, has been taking care of my son full time while I work, but her health isn't the greatest now. I don't trust any of the day care in my area and can't afford one anyway.

I really want to be a stay-at-home mom, but still feel obligated to help bring in money. How do I get over my guilt for not wanting to work outside the home full time?

STUCK IN DELAWARE

DEAR STUCK: You are not the only mother who feels this kind of ambivalence. Many others are as torn as you are.

Perhaps it would help if you focus harder on thinking about this rationally rather than emotionally. When your grandmother's health no longer allows her to care for your son, you may have to cut back on your schedule to be with him—or your husband may need to take a second job. Also, some people manage to work from home, and you may want to explore those opportunities.

DEAR ABBY: My son is more than likely going to win a trip to the Dominican Republic through his employer. He's planning to take his wife with him. Their two children will stay with me or their other grandma.

With the way the world is now, I wouldn't go on a vacation with my husband, fly to another country and leave my children behind. I would let him go alone so that in case something happens, my kids would have at least one parent left.

I understand that we should not give in to fear and give up what we like to do, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't take logical precautions. My children would be more important to me than a vacation. What is your opinion on this?

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD

DEAR LIVING: My opinion is that you should stay out of it, and let your son and daughter-in-law enjoy that hard-earned vacation. If they were visiting a country where the threat level was high, I might think differently. However, to repeat what you said in your letter, "we should not give in to fear and give up what we like to do" because we are afraid of what "might" happen. That's not living; it is hiding.

DEAR ABBY: I love attending religious services on Sundays and the Communion during them. I quit drinking alcohol almost 18 months ago. Our church serves wine (not grape juice) during Communion, and I have been told not to drink ANYTHING alcoholic. How do I cope with this situation?

SOBER AND PROUD OF IT

DEAR SOBER: Congratulations on your sobriety. This is something to discuss with your clergyperson. If you have been warned that tasting the Communion wine could sabotage your sobriety, perhaps you should consider partaking only of the bread.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

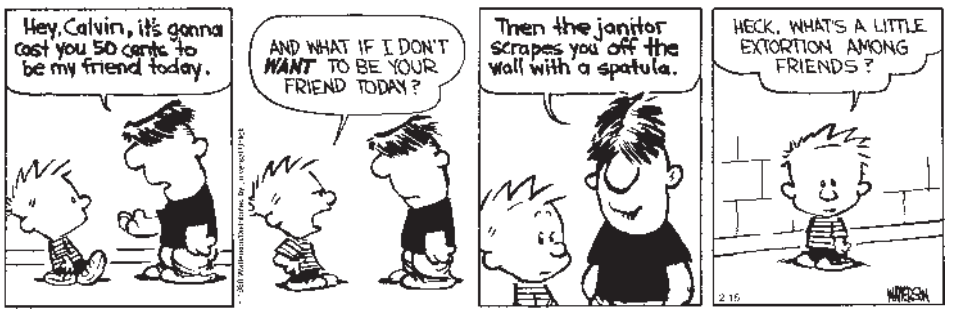
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

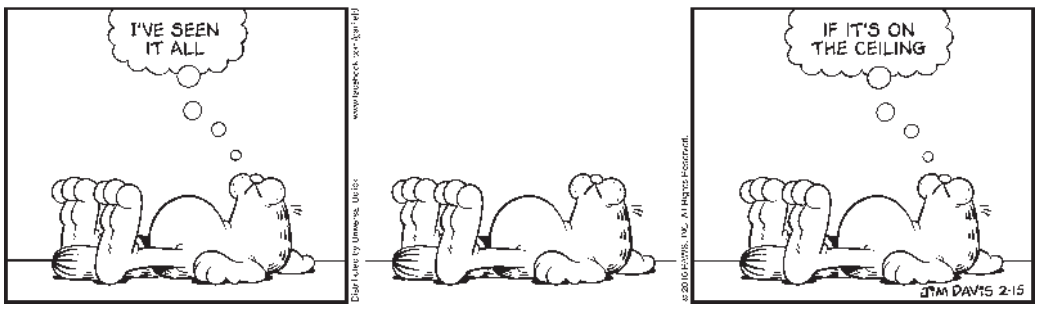
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Hey, Calvin, it's gonna cost you 50 cents to be my friend today.
AND WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND TODAY?
Then the janitor scrapes you off the wall with a spatula.
HECK, WHAT'S A LITTLE EXTORTION AMONG FRIENDS?
2-15
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



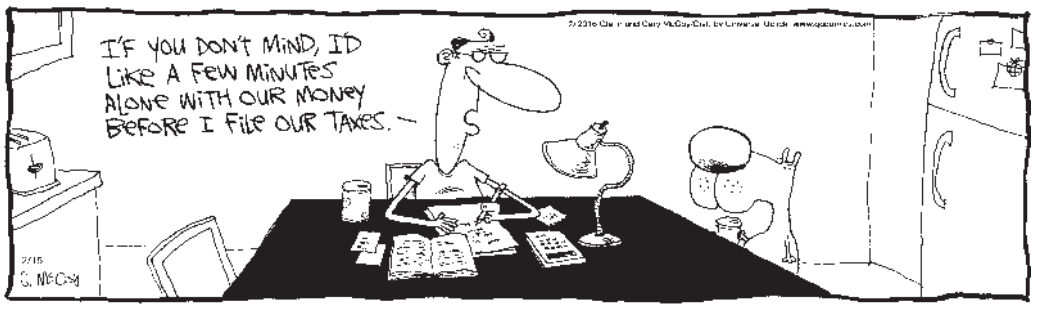
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

HOW'S YOUR BOOK COMING, POPS?
MY NOVEL?
IT'S IN... LIMBO, I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT.
THIS STAGE IS ALL ABOUT RUMINATING... GESTATING... MARINATING...
PROCRASTINATING?
LET'S NOT MOCK THE PROCESS, SWEETIE.
2-15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Peculiar
4 Ambition
9 Pres. portrait on a dime
12 Swamp
13 — Gras
14 Brit's restroom
15 Pink lawn ornaments
17 Cleric's tunic
18 Mel of Cooperstown
19 Mortar partner
21 Jungle expedition
24 Chicago paper, for short
25 100%
26 Squid squirt
28 Ort
31 Sheepish remarks
33 Sticky stuff
35 Caffeine-rich nut
36 Let off the hook?
38 German pronoun
40 Crucial
41 "— Louise!"
43 Homes on reservations
45 Pure
47 Exist
48 Sinbad's bird
49 Tasty
54 Noah's boat
55 Contribute to the mix
56 Can. neighbor
57 Petrol
58 Princes of India
59 Just out

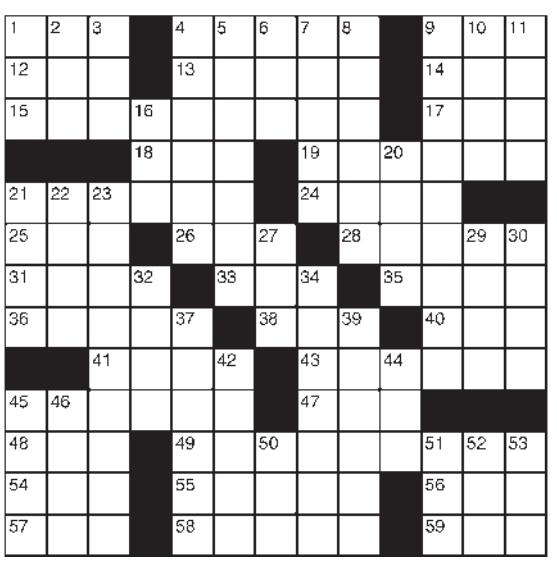
DOWN

1 Not on
2 Dover's st.
3 "CSI" evidence
4 A Karamazov brother
5 Carrying on
6 Work unit
7 Take as one's own
8 Scrooges
9 Penniless
10 Barbie, e.g.
11 PJs cover
16 Extinct bird
20 Ailing
21 Hollywood's "Elephant Boy"
22 "Codebreaker" Turing
23 Pancakes
27 Japanese pond carp
29 Sheltered
30 Remits
32 Beholds
34 "Antony and Cleopatra" role
37 Be successful
39 Marsh birds
42 Socialite/writer Fitzgerald
44 Apiece
45 Rocky outcrop
46 Circle dance
50 Wd. modifier
51 Gaiety
52 Employ
53 Murphy's —

Solution time: 27 mins.

I	F	M	■	M	M	F	■	A	B	O	■	I
A	N	O	■	E	E	L	■	L	A	N	A	I
B	O	X	■	A	L	L	F	O	R	O	N	E
■	C	I	■	L	O	I	R	E	■	■	■	■
■	H	E	A	■	N	E	E	■	F	E	R	N
■	■	■	D	D	S	■	D	E	A	P	M	C
A	C	H	O	O	■	■	■	S	T	A	N	D
P	I	O	B	O	S	■	P	E	W	■	■	■
P	E	T	E	■	O	R	O	■	A	L	T	O
■	■	■	V	I	E	W	S	■	S	U	B	■
■	E	A	R	O	H	I	W	O	■	L	I	A
D	E	B	U	T	■	R	O	M	■	R	E	M
S	N	A	R	E	■	C	O	W	E	■	Y	E	A

Friday's answer 2 - 15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Riley, 30; Matt Groening, 62; Melissa Manchester, 65; Jane Seymour, 65.

Happy Birthday: Ease into everything you do this year. Take on what's most important to you and what offers the most in return. There is no point wasting time on the impossible when there is so much value in putting your skills to work masterfully. In the end, it's what you do for yourself that will count the most. Your numbers are 6, 10, 17, 24, 27, 31, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Offer what you can to others, but not at the expense of your own plans and ambitions. Your eager, energetic personality could make it easy for others to take advantage of you. Charity begins at home. Offer advice, not monetary help. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your anger under control and your energy headed in a productive direction. There is much you can accomplish if you clearly outline your goals. Spend time with someone you feel passionately about. Attentive behavior will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make a difference and do something helpful for someone too old or too young to take on certain responsibilities. You will find valuable information that can give you a head start on a project or plan you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try to be open to change rather than fighting it. Once you start heading in a direction that flows smoothly, you will make gains that you never thought were possible in the past. Money and marriage look promising. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let problems at home dictate your mood or cause you uncertainty. Communicate with others and make suggestions that will bring about important changes in your life. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have lots of energy, but your emotions will interfere with getting things done. Too much of anything will work against you. Uncertainty is the enemy, so dig deep and find out what you need to know and move forward quickly. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't hesitate because someone is trying to disrupt your plans or lead you astray. Use your intelligence and you will find a way to put everything in place to secure your life. A financial, legal or contractual gain is likely. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a different route than usual. Whether traveling, communicating or starting a new endeavor, consider all the angles and let your uniqueness guide you. You'll gain experience and grab attention if you are true to your beliefs, desires and your heart. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Check out someone's motives if what they are offering seems too good to be true. Put more effort into making your home safe and your surroundings comfortable. Learn from what the people you encounter say and do. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for a creative outlet or a way to mix work with pleasure. Having fun with people you want to conduct business with will put you at an advantage when heavy decisions need to be made. Romance will improve your day. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stop stressing over things you cannot change. Anger, regret and living in the past will stand between you and future victories. Look for positive changes that will help you use what you enjoy doing to bring in extra cash. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't lose out because you aren't aware of all the facts. It's up to you to ask questions and gather whatever information is required to make a worthwhile choice or change. Ask for favors and offer an incentive in return. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intelligent and innovative. You are intuitive and particular.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			3					7
	3	2				8	6	
	7			5	9		2	
		9	5		1			4
		3				5		
7			8		2	9		
	1		9	6			3	
	8	4				1	9	
6					3			5

Difficulty Level ★ 2/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	8	2	3	6	1	9	4
9	2	6	1	4	7	5	3	8
1	3	4	9	5	8	2	6	7
2	4	7	5	9	3	6	8	1
8	9	3	6	2	1	7	4	5
6	1	5	8	7	4	9	2	3
4	5	2	3	1	9	8	7	6
7	6	1	4	8	2	3	5	9
3	8	9	7	6	5	4	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS Solution: 5 letters

E	P	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	A	S	S	E	T	S
V	R	Q	S	E	C	U	R	E	F	D	S	P	D	E
I	O	U	H	T	W	O	R	G	O	M	M	R	R	C
T	C	I	T	S	T	I	F	O	R	P	A	O	O	R
A	U	T	N	C	E	B	G	E	M	W	R	J	L	U
R	R	Y	E	V	U	I	T	N	E	F	K	E	D	O
E	E	S	T	I	E	R	D	R	I	U	E	C	N	S
P	M	R	L	I	E	S	T	I	A	L	Ⓣ	T	A	E
O	E	D	A	V	R	R	T	S	S	N	L	Ⓐ	L	R
O	N	S	E	H	E	O	U	M	A	B	S	I	Ⓧ	I
C	T	N	A	C	S	G	H	T	E	R	U	F	B	S
N	U	D	S	E	A	A	A	T	N	N	F	S	E	K
E	S	K	I	L	L	S	V	N	U	E	T	N	N	R
E	E	R	G	A	I	N	H	E	A	A	V	A	I	S
S	E	I	N	A	P	M	O	C	O	M	B	I	N	E

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Agree, Assets, Authority, Bank, Billing, Build, Cash, Combine, Companies, Cooperative, Equity, Form, Gain, Goods, Growth, Infrastructure, Investment, Landlord, Lease, Manage, Market, Procurement, Profits, Project, Resources, Revenue, Rewards, Risk, Save, Sector, Secure, Service, Share, Sign, Skills, Subsidies, Tax, Terms, Transfer, Venture

Last Thursday's Answer: Sleepy

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GPPC Marine, LLC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) Able Bodied Seaman
Rate: $6.10 - 6.60/ hour or commensurate to experience and qualifications.

Qualifications: Must be a high school graduate or minimum of two years experience as an Able Bodied Seaman.

The above position will be closed on February 19, 2016.
Interested applicants may apply at GPPC Marine, LLC. Office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950.
A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted.
Skills testing maybe required.

GPPC Marine, LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

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High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 19, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the follow positions:

Advertising Sales Agent
Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence ad prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
Job Vacancy Announcement

(02) Machinist
Rate: $6.10 - $7.60 per hour or commensurate to experience and job qualifications.
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Machinist or related field.

(02) Sales Person
Rate: $6.10 - $6.60 per hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of two to five years work experience as a sales person. Able to sell merchandises such as, light/heavy vehicles, motor vehicle parts, heavy equipment parts and appliances to consumers. Greet customers and assist their needs and wants, as well as to explain the merchandises and its usage, operation and proper care. Capable of recommending, selecting and helping customers obtain desired and needed products. Calculate prices, tally purchases, compute receivables and process cash and credit payments. Prepare sale slips or sale contracts and place special orders to the suppliers for the customer's desired items. Enjoys dealing with customers and answering their questions regarding the store merchandises.

The above position will be closed on Friday, February 19, 2016. Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builders Inc. office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing maybe required.

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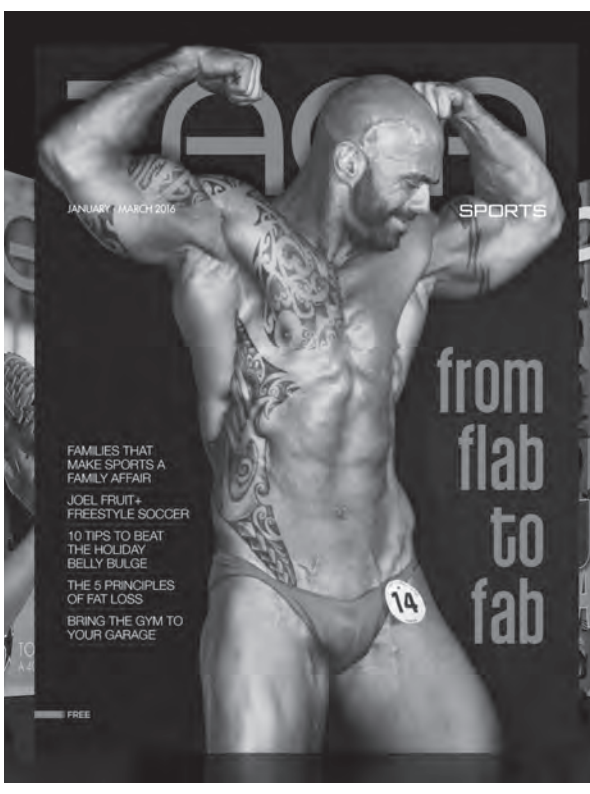
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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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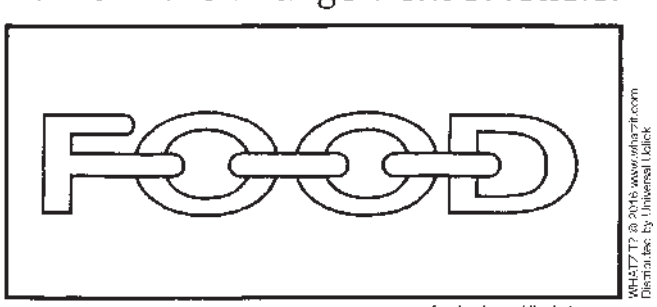
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

LaVine wins dunk thriller versus Gordon

AP
Minnesota Timberwolves' Zach LaVine slam dunks the ball during the NBA all-star skills competition in Toronto on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016.

TORONTO (AP)—Aaron Gordon soared over his mascot, but nobody flies higher than Zach LaVine in the slam dunk contest.

LaVine was perfect just a little longer than Gordon and won a thrilling final event to cap off an entertaining NBA All-Star Saturday. LaVine captured his second straight dunk title - and a second trophy in two nights.

"I had to bring my A-plus-plus-plus game," LaVine said.

"He did two dunks that were just crazy with the mascots, jumping over them. We just kept pushing each other until the last dunk."

The 3-point crown stayed by the Bay—though with the other 'Splash Brother.' Klay Thompson pulled off a smooth-shooting surprise by beating Stephen Curry.

"Back-to-back years for Splash Brothers, it's pretty cool," Thompson said.

All-Star weekend so far has belonged to LaVine and the Minnesota Timberwolves, as rookie Karl-Anthony Towns showed big guys have skills, too.

The night—and the first two nights of this first All-Star weekend held outside the U.S.—ended with a celebration for LaVine, who won the MVP award in Friday night in the Rising Stars Challenge for rookies and second-year players.

He outlasted Gordon in a duel that needed two overtimes and ended only when there was literally no ball to use. Curry batted it down to other end of the court after he and the other NBA stars who were as captivated as the fans and celebrities sitting courtside charged onto the court when LaVine leaped from just inside the free throw line, put the ball between his legs in midair and slammed it down.

He and Gordon traded perfect scores of 50 for the previous few rounds after advancing to the final, but the Orlando Magic rookie mustered only a 47 in his last attempt.

But he may have had the most memorable dunks of the night with some help from the Magic's mascot—aptly named Stuff the Magic Dragon.

On Stuff's first assist, Gordon took the ball with one hand from the mascot, who was spinning around on a hoverboard, and did a 360-degree dunk. He got another assist from Stuff on the next one, leaping high to take the ball, putting it under his legs - nearly in a sitting position in midair—and slamming it down with his left hand.

"Me and him are now like best friends, me and Stuff," Gordon said.

The only boos went to the judges, with the crowd thinking Shaquille O'Neal was a little stingy with a couple of 9s instead of perfect 10s.

"We were kind of mind-boggled a couple times because we got 49s and they were 50s," LaVine said.

A night that included an appearance by boxing ring announcer Michael Buffer ended with a couple heavyweight matchups. LaVine became the first repeat dunk champion since Nate Robinson, but Curry wasn't even the best on his own team after setting a final-round record last year.

This time, Thompson was so good he had clinched it even before the final ball on his final rack. He started to walk away after making first four - then turned and made that one, anyway.

"He definitely shot well tonight," Curry said. "I still think I can hold my own in the competition, but the way that he finished off that second round was amazing. So trust me, the pressure of knowing what number he had to hit and making five out of five was fun to watch."

Towns beat Boston Celtics point guard Isaiah Thomas to win the Skills Challenge, further validating the evolution of the big man from a plodding post player to a playmaking force.

In the first year that frontcourt players were allowed to compete against the guards in the event that combines dribbling, passing and perimeter shooting, Towns beat Golden State's Draymond Green and Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins in the big men side of the bracket before edging Thomas in the finals.

"I'm glad I was able to help the bigs come out with this trophy," said Towns, the No. 1 overall pick in the June draft. "This is bigger than me. This is for all the bigs out there, with the game changing the way it is, to show that bigs can stand up with guards and skillwise."

SIDEBAR Thompson beats Curry to bag 3-point title

TORONTO (AP)—Klay Thompson did what barely any team has done this year.

He beat Stephen Curry.

The 3-point contest championship has gone from one "Splash Brother" to another, as Thompson beat his Golden State teammate and defending champion with a dazzling display at All-Star Saturday night. Thompson finished the final round with 27 points, four more than Curry managed as once again, the title came down to the two Golden State sharpshooters.

"We love to shoot against each other," Thompson said. "You know, I've never been on a team with someone who shoots it better than me, so it's a privilege to work with him every day. He makes me that much better."

Phoenix's Devin Booker was third, with 16 points in the final round. He beat Houston's James Harden and J.J. Redick of the Los Angeles Clippers to get out of the first round, and Toronto's Kyle Lowry, Portland's C.J. McCollum and Milwaukee's Khris Middleton were eliminated early.

As probably many expected, it came down to Curry and Thompson.

Curry shot before Thompson in the final round, making his first seven shots and putting up 23 points - which, to that point, was the best score of the night. Shooters got one point for making a conventional 3-pointer, two points for using a multicolored "money ball."

"At the end of the day, you've got to make shots," Curry said. "Just like in a game."

So the pressure was on Thompson, and he delivered.

Here's how good Thompson was in the finals - he had two different streaks of eight consecutive makes. Thompson was 19-for-25 in the final round, 18-for-25 in the first, and adding them together put him at 74 percent on the night.

That's what it took to beat Curry, who set the NBA single-season record with 286 3-pointers last season and is on pace to obliterate that mark this season. He's already at 245, and the Warriors have 30 games remaining.

And really, the only title Curry probably really wants to defend is the NBA championship anyway. He and Thompson have helped the Warriors get off to a 48-4 start this season, making them the heavy favorites to repeat as titlists.

"Back-to-back years for the 'Splash Brothers,'" Thompson said. "It's pretty cool."

Carmelo Anthony says he has no plans to leave Knicks

TORONTO (AP)—Carmelo Anthony said Saturday he has no plans to leave the New York Knicks and is angry about a report linking him to trade talks.

The Daily News of New York reported Friday that the Cleveland Cavaliers and Boston Celtics had discussed a deal involving Kevin Love and that there were "very preliminary discussions" with the Knicks about expanding it to include Anthony, who would end up with LeBron James in Cleveland.

But Anthony, who has to agree to any deal, told SiriusXM NBA Radio that he's "not going nowhere."

During his interviews after practice for the All-Star Game, Anthony added that he's had no conversations with the Knicks or anyone else about leaving the team.

"I don't know where it comes from so sometimes it gets to you as a player. Just get tired of hearing something all the time," Anthony said. "I'm not on the run. I could've ran somewhere when I was a free agent, you know what I'm saying? I came back for a reason. I came back because I wanted to do this."

Anthony was acquired by the Knicks five years ago and in July 2014 signed a five-year deal to stay with them. He was granted the right to veto any trade, which few players have, when he re-signed.

He bypassed the chance to join contenders such as Chicago or Houston, and prefers to chase a championship in New York even though the Knicks remain nowhere close.

"Doing it in New York is better than doing it any place in the world," Anthony said. "One in New York is better than multiple somewhere else, so that was the reason I wanted to come to New York. That's the reason why I'm in New York, so it just bothers me when I started hearing all these trade rumors and trade talks."

James wasn't concerned about the report.

"It's false. That's the way I look at it and see it," he said. "It's false. It's the last thing I was trying to worry about right now is trade talks."

Anthony found out about the report when a friend back home in Baltimore texted him while he was watching teammate Kristaps Porzingis play in the Rising Stars Challenge. Anthony said he simply put the phone back in his pocket.

Knicks President of Basketball Operations Phil Jackson noted Anthony's no-trade clause last week when talking about the team's plans for Thursday's trade deadline. But with the Knicks' struggles and Anthony's high salary and continued knee pain at age 31, speculation about his future will continue.

"Eventually you get tired of hearing it," Anthony said.

Meanwhile, All-Star forward Chris Bosh will have more exams on his strained right calf when he gets back to Miami, possibly as early as Monday to determine the status and severity of the problem.

He has conferred regularly with Heat medical officials about the issue, which he has been dealing with and getting treatment for over the past several days. Bosh came to Toronto with hopes of participating in Saturday's 3-point contest and Sunday's All-Star Game, but dropped out Friday out of concern of making the calf worse.

"It just lingered and I didn't feel it was wise to continue to push it, especially with this elongated week that we have off," Bosh said. "I just wanted to make sure that I was taking the necessary precautions and being a good professional."

Mickelson takes two-stroke lead at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Far away from the commotion of the celebrities Saturday at Pebble Beach, the most accomplished star among golfers quietly went about his business.

That won't be the case for Phil Mickelson on Sunday.

Mickelson efficiently pieced together a 6-under 66 in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, though it only looked easy on the card. He made birdie on all but one of the par 3s, scrambled for par on half of his holes and wound up with his first 54-hole lead since the 2013 U.S. Open.

The spotlight will be all his in the final round.

It's a chance to end the longest victory drought of his career—52 events worldwide since he last won at Muirfield in the 2013 British Open. He was two shots clear of Hiroshi Iwata, a 35-year-old with two victories on the Japan Golf Tour. And he was poised to join Mark O'Meara with his fifth victory at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

The next six players on the leaderboard have combined for a whopping four PGA Tour victories. The 45-year-old Mickelson will be going for No. 43.

And yet he left the magnificent sunshine with a mixture of excitement and concern, along with his typical fill of optimism.

It was hard work.

"I was very pleased to shoot that round, obviously, but there were a lot of holes I just had to fight for pars," Mickelson said. "It wasn't a pushover by any means."

He planned on bringing in Andrew Getson, his new swing coach, to sharpen his game ahead of the final round.

Mickelson was at 16-under 199

Iwata, who tied a major championship record with a 63 at Whistling Straits in the PGA Championship last year, had six birdies in his round of 69 at Spyglass Hill.

He has yet to finish in the top 20 in America.

"I haven't felt any nerves or I haven't felt any pressure quite yet, but whether it's going to be regardless of tonight or tomorrow morning, I just want to make sure I go out there and in a good mental condition," Iwata said.

Freddie Jacobson had a 68 at Monterey Peninsula, which for the first time this week played the toughest of the three courses because of the brisk wind. He was three shots behind, along with Sung Kang, who had a 70 at Pebble Beach.

Jordan Spieth, the world's No. 1 player, was happy to have a tee time on Sunday.

Spieth struggled on the par 5s for the third straight round, playing them at 1 over at Pebble Beach. He had to get up-and-down for par on the par-5 18th for a 74 to make the cut on the number. He has played the par 5s in even par for the week.

"I'm not in contention. It will be the first stress-free round that I've really had in quite a while where I've played a Sunday not having a chance to win," Spieth said. "It's not good, but at the same time, I think I can get into a groove and not lose any hair over the back nine. I'm going to fire at some pins."

Jason Day had a 68 at Pebble Beach, though he was still six shots behind. Jimmy Walker made a pair of eagles on the front nine at Pebble for a 63 and was seven behind.

Mickelson got as much as he could out of his 66.

He played at Pebble Beach with the rest of the celebrities, who are the main attraction on Saturday, except that Lefty teed off on the back nine away from all the commotion of clowning, dancing and even lifting CBS Sports reporter Dottie Pepper into the crowd near the 15th tee.

Mickelson's pitch to the 18th went through the green, and he chipped in for a birdie to make the turn in 3 under. He had to scramble for par out of a bunker on No. 1. On the third hole, he drove into a fairway bunker and purposely played away from the flag, chipping just short of the green for a good angle at the pin.

He also had to get up-and-down for par on the short par-4 fourth hole. Those typically are the scoring holes, but he took off from there with three straight birdies, including a 20-foot putt on the 112-yard seventh hole, tougher than usual because of a firm green and a breeze at the back.

AP

Phil Mickelson follows his shot from the 17th tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Matt Cain finally healthy and ready to rejoin Giants' rotation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If the San Francisco Giants had any lingering concerns about Matt Cain's health, the veteran pitcher helped ease their minds with one impressive swing—on the golf course.

Playing at Pebble Beach two days before the start of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am along with teammates including Buster Posey and George Kontos, Cain hit a 340-yard drive shot on No. 18 that helped the Giants beat the San Francisco 49ers as part of the Chevron Charity Shootout.

It was a shot that left many spectators buzzing and had some fans questioning whether it really happened.

For Cain, it was simply another signal that after two years of pain and problems in his pitching elbow, he is finally healthy and ready to once again be a permanent fixture in the Giants' rotation.

"I think I'm where I need to be right now," Cain said Friday on the eve of the Giants' FanFest at AT&T Park. "Everything's feeling good. It's still just fine-tuning and tweaking my rhythm and my motion and what I need to get done and not getting too frustrated with beginning. It's still early."

That hasn't always been Cain's approach. He admittedly tried to hurry back following season-ending surgery to remove bone chips and spurs in his elbow just as the 2014 pennant race was heating up.

Though Cain was back in time for the start of spring training last year, he opened on the disabled list because of a flexor tendon strain, spent another long stretch on the DL with nerve irritation in his pitching elbow and finished the season 2-4 with a career-high 5.79 ERA.

A 16-game winner in 2012 when he anchored San Francisco's rotation and led the Giants to the second of three World Series titles in a five-year span, Cain says the health issues that bogged him down are no longer a concern. He's been doing some throwing in Arizona and expects to be full-go when the Giants begin spring training next week.

"I like where he's at," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's in a good place right now. I don't know where he's going to pitch as far as in the rotation but I know talking to (head trainer Dave Groeschner) who's been watching him throw that he's throwing the ball very well now."

Having Cain healthy for a full season would be a boon for a pitching staff that is already shaping up to be one of the best in the majors.

Broncos basking in glory of first title since '99

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—While general manager John Elway maps out plans to keep his team intact, the Denver Broncos are enjoying the spoils of their Super Bowl victory.

There's the talk show circuit, anticipation of big financial rewards and the memory of a million fans at the parade celebrating the Broncos' first championship since 1999.

The Lombardi Trophy has been taken to owner Pat Bowlen's house. The 71-year-old owner is battling Alzheimer's and he watched the Broncos' 24-10 win over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50 from his home in Denver. Team president and CEO Joe Ellis said family members Skyped with Bowlen during the postgame celebration Sunday.

As the confetti and celebrations begin to settle, the Broncos await word on Peyton Manning's future.

He's due $19 million in 2016 but is widely expected to retire after becoming the oldest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, capping a tumultuous year in which the 39-year-old Manning was sidelined six weeks by a foot injury.

Elway is mapping out plans to keep his team intact for a run at another title no matter who's under center.

Elway will likely have to place the franchise tag on Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller, who said he thinks negotiations on a megadeal will be "peaceful."

Elway also has big decisions to make on free agents Brock Osweiler, Malik Jackson and Danny Trevathan, among others.

The Broncos have already signed all nine members of their season-ending practice squad to reserve future contracts, including Ryan Murphy, the safety who was sent home from the Super Bowl after he got caught up in a prostitution sting a few miles from the team hotel. Murphy wasn't charged.

Headlining that group was wide receiver Jordan Taylor, a standout at training camp who helped Manning in his comeback by running countless routes for the quarterback as he worked his way back into playing shape from a torn plantar fascia near his left heel. Manning thanked the rookie from Rice by buying him a custom-made Super Bowl suit.

Other members of that practice squad include tight end Nick Kasa, who watched the Broncos' 20-18 win over New England in the AFC championship from the stands only to realize the following day when he got his phone fixed (he had dropped it at the game) that the Broncos had been trying to reach him to sign him to their scout team.

The nine practice squad players will officially return to the roster on March 9 when the 2016 league year begins.

Manning made an appearance this week on NBC's "Tonight Show," where he had a little fun with little brother Eli's blank stare following Denver's game-sealing touchdown in the closing minutes.

Miller made fun of Manning on the Ellen DeGeneres show. Asked by the host if Manning had retired, he responded, "I think he had to rush out to do a Life Alert commercial."

"I don't think he's going to retire though," Miller added. "I don't think he's going to retire. He's still has the physical ability and the mental ability to go out there and be great. So I still think he has a little bit left in him."

Man United bungles chances to join Champions League

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal cast doubt on his team's chances of qualifying for next season's Champions League after a 2-1 loss at relegation-threatened Sunderland in the Premier League, placing the Dutchman under fresh scrutiny on Saturday.

The latest embarrassing loss for United this season was sealed by a late own goal by David de Gea in the 82nd minute, with a goal-line clearance from Anthony Martial cannoning off the back of the goalkeeper and into the net.

Martial had equalized for United in the 39th minute after recent signing Wahbi Khazri put Sunderland ahead in the third minute.

The loss left United six points behind fourth-place Manchester City, having played one more game.

With the top four in action against each other on Sunday—leader Leicester is at Arsenal and Manchester City hosts Tottenham—United wasted a great chance to close the gap on the Champions League places.

"It will be very difficult now," Van Gaal said about United finishing in the top four. "It's too much at this time. I think after this match (winning the Europa League) is the best route."

It was only last week that Van Gaal was talking up United's chances of winning the league title. Yet, the 20-time champions —on 41 points— have never had fewer points after 26 games of a Premier League season.

In Londonl, Chelsea prepared for its Champions League trip to Paris Saint-Germain by routing Newcastle 5-1 on Saturday, the biggest win of a miserable Premier League season for the champions.

Chelsea climbed to 12th place but the London club remains 14 points from fourth place. Winning the Champions League is the only way back into Europe's elite competition next season and the challenge resumes in Paris in the round of 16 on Tuesday.

Confidence will be high after this emphatic win over relegation-threatened Newcastle which saw Pedro Rodriguez score twice after Diego Costa's fifth-minute opener while Willian and Bertrand Traore also netted.

There was a blow for Chelsea, with captain John Terry coming off before halftime with a "small muscular problem" that will be assessed on Sunday, manager Guus Hiddink said.

Hiddink remains unbeaten since replacing fired manager Jose Mourinho in December.

"We tried to press from the first minute to surprise them and I think we did," Hiddink told British broadcaster BT Sport. "We had an early goal and an early second goal so that made them very unstable.

"What, for me, is important is the good organization defensively and not dropping back."

Chelsea raced into a 3-0 lead inside 17 minutes and looked like champions, but that was mainly down to Newcastle's calamitous defending as Steve McClaren's team lost for the sixth straight away game to fall into the relegation zone below Norwich on goal difference.

Andros Townsend did score his first goal since joining Newcastle in the 90th minute but it was a mere consolation.

"We got punished severely," McClaren said. "We have been exposed tonight by a very good team."

Costa showed no ill effects after breaking his nose in training on Thursday. Hiddink joked Chelsea had a "Zorro team" after Costa joined Cesar Azpilicueta in requiring a face mask. Nemanja Matic and Gary Cahill have also recently worn the protection.

"(Costa) wanted to play desperately," Hiddink said. "The way the first goal was scored was typically a striker who is in a good shape."

In the fifth minute, Costa pounced in the box after Willian burst down the right channel and fed the striker. He stretched out a leg, beat Steven Taylor to the ball and flicked it across goalkeeper Rob Elliot and into the far corner.

Next Pedro intercepted Rolando Aarons' pass toward Daryl Janmaat and executed a fine finish in the 9th. Chelsea had a third when Costa beat Fabricio Coloccini to the ball and set up Willian to score in the 17th.

Terry felt the back of his leg and hobbled away after an aerial challenge with Aleksandar Mitrovic. The pair exchanged words soon afterward and Terry was replaced by Baba Rahman.

But Newcastle barely tested Chelsea's reshuffled defense as the hosts had further chances.

Branislav Ivanovic had a shot blocked and Pedro fluffed a shot after Jonjo Shelvey gifted the ball to Costa.

Having lost Terry, it appeared Chelsea might also have to withdraw Eden Hazard when Janmaat caught the Belgian from behind. But Hazard, on his first Premier League start since Jan. 3, continued.

Mitrovic was caught by Cesc Fabregas on the edge of Chelsea's box, but no foul was given and Cahill blocked Shelvey's effort before Mitrovic fired wide across goal.

The brief flurry of attacking activity early in the second half amounted to a purple patch for the visitors, who soon conceded a fourth in the 59th. Taylor failed to reach Fabregas' ball over the top and Pedro tucked in with ease.

"The fourth goal really killed us and that's what can happen when you come here," McClaren said.

A fifth followed when Traore tucked in Azpilicueta's cross for his first Premier League goal in the 83rd. Hazard managed to miss from close range before Townsend struck late on, firing low into the net.

AP

Sunderland's Yann M'Vila, left, vies for the ball with Manchester United's Juan Mata during the English Premier League soccer match between Sunderland and Manchester United at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016.

XTERRA

From Page 28

Saipan riders. Cabreros posted 2:49:36 to edge Dencio Bautista and Ricky Suba, who tallied 2:53:59 and 3:12:34, respectively.

In the men's 35 and below age group, Saipan had a 1-2 finish with Rhenmar Remillosa winning the division with his 2:49:29 and Kenji Matias coming in next with his 2:49:33. Tinian's John Rick Libut rounded out the Top 3 after logging 2:57:07, while Felicia Reynolds was the champion in the women's division after completing the race in 3:19:26.

Meanwhile, Dizon and Ambet Omampo received the Sportsmanship Award in the race organized by Bikers Association on Tinian president Dawn Sarmiento and vice president Richard Lazaro through the help of Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Mayor's Office.

9

From Page 28

pairing.

In the boys U16 singles, Schorr, who just moved up to the higher age group this year, notched the first finals berth in the division after stunning the second-ranked Colin Ramsey, 6-3, 6-4. Schorr will face in the finals the winner between the top-seeded Moris Villanueva and Michael Ren, who squared off in the semifinals of the upper half of the draw yesterday and results of their match were unavailable at press time.

In the girls division, U16 age group, it will be Isabel Heras and Tania Tan for the second straight time. Tan battled through flu and cruised past Conatsu Kaga, 6-0, 6-1, to earn another crack at Heras, who defeated the former in the Tan Holdings finale in November. A 6-3, 6-2 victory against Malika Miyawaki in the other semis game allowed Heras to challenge Tan anew.

In the U14 age group, Asia Raulerson topped Maria Gregoire, 6-1, 6-2, to set a finals date opposite Coume Kaga, who labored for three sets before ousting Erika Tuttle in their semis showdown. Coume won the opening set, 6-2, but Tuttle came back with a 6-2 triumph in the second set. In the super tiebreaker third set, Coume and Tuttle went neck-and-neck in the early part of the game before the former recorded a 10-7 win.

Coume and Raulerson's title match will be played today, along with the remaining championship games in the other singles event and the mixed-up doubles.

BLUE

From Page 28

Blue Haus Ali'i. Bruce Berline contributed a point-blanked shot in that spurt, while Espinosa nailed the lone field goal for PIC in the meltdown.

Blue Haus Ali'I needed to hang tough in the payoff period as PIC successfully recovered from a slow start and even took a 4-point advantage early in the fourth, 40-36, before crashing in the last seven minutes of the finale.

The finals was played under a cold night with the strong winds blowing off PIC's chances to keep up with Blue Haus Ali'i early in the game. PIC was held to a point off Espinosa's split charity in the first five minutes and change of the opening canto, allowing Blue Haus Ali'i to establish its biggest lead, 13-1.

PIC then finally hit a field goal at the 4:09 mark of the first quarter, thanks to Darwin Barbo's banked shot off Sean Rabasto's feed. Barbo went on to finish the opening frame with 8 points, as PIC managed to close the gap, 9-17.

Barbo and company continued their uphill climb in the next two quarters and stole the driver's seat, 29-28 off Jack Aranda's first basket in the match that came midway in the third. PIC went on to keep a shaky lead, 37-36, entering the final frame.

Jack Aranda then opened the final canto with a triple to give PIC its biggest advantage at 4 points, however that was the last time he scored, as he missed at least four shots from downtown and the rest of his teammates also fired blanks.

PIC's offensive meltdown happened with Rabasto sitting on the bench in the majority of the fourth quarter, as the shooting guard only reported back into the game in the last 1:35 and ended the team's drought with a floater. However, Rabasto's basket was not enough to spark another PIC fightback, while Blue Haus Ali'i wisely used the clock to its advantage to preserve its lead and win the finale.

Esdrelon top-scored for Blue Haus Ali'i with his 21 points, while Guiab was the other double-figure scorer on the champion team with his 13. Barbo and Rabasto had 11 each to pace PIC, which got only 5 points apiece from Aranda and Abuy. The two shooters averaged in double figures in the last few games of PIC, but clearly struggled against Blue Haus Ali'i's defense.

Meanwhile, Cholos pulled off a come-from-behind win against GMJ/IKKI Wholesale, 88-85, in the battle for third place match.

Jerome Norita hit clutch baskets, while Jun Tabora canned important free throws in the closing minutes to steal the victory from the west division champion GMJ/IKKI.

Finals

Blue Haus 57— Esdrelon 21, Guiab 13, Fernando 7, Talania 6, De Dios 4, Berline 3, Demapan 2, Velasco 1.

PIC 49— Rabasto 11, Barbo 11, Espinosa 9, Abuy 5, Aranda 5, Feria 4, Castro 2, Galloway 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-9, 23-19, 36-37, 57-49.

Consolation

Cholos 88— Zalgatar 21, Rangamar 16, Norita 16, Tabora 13, Laguindam 7, Capalad 5, Hernandez 4, Ritual 2.

GMJ/IKKI 85— Camacho 23, Ferrer 20, Mangali 18, Villacrusis 14, Cortez 6, Sison 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 41-46, 63-67, 88-85.

Inaugural 'Timmy Would Go' Memorial Paddle Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paddlers negotiate the 500m course during last month's Inaugural 'Timmy Would Go' Memorial Paddle Classic held in the waters off Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

Two paddlers engage in a tight race.

A male paddler, right, tries hard to catch up with Ponce Rasa.

Paddlers steer their boards as they make the turn and head back for the second loop of the 500m race.

Paddlers head to the finish line.

A paddler sprints to the finish line.

Three paddlers chase the leading Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel.

A female paddler runs to the finish line.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel slows down as he gets ready to run to the shore.

LaVine wins dunk thriller versus Gordon

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mickelson takes two-stroke lead at Pebble Beach

PAGE 25

Blue Haus Ali'i clinches title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus Ali'i's' Bruce Berline pulls up for a shot against Pacific Islands Club's Mike Espinosa during the fourth quarter of their title game in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus Ali'i was crowned champion in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League following a 57-49 finals win against Pacific Islands Club last Saturday night at the San Antonio court.

Blue Haus Ali'i showed poise in the fourth quarter to foil Pacific Islands Club's comeback bid and rule the Open division of the inaugural league.

The eventual champion won the pivotal exchange, 12-2, in the next six minute and spare of the fourth quarter after Pacific Islands Club forced the last standoff in the match, 42-all, off a putback from Mike Espinosa at the 7:15 mark of the final canto.

Elmer Esdrelon broke the deadlock with a triple and he hit another one with less than four minutes remaining on the clock, while Junar Guiab knocked in back-to-back short jumpers under the last two-minute warning to seal it for

See BLUE on Page 26

9 gain singles finals berths

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Daniel Kang serves during his and Ryan Cho's mixed-up doubles game against Asia Raulerson and Moris Villanueva in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nine players earned finals tickets in the singles events in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic after last Saturday's matches at the Pacific Islands Club court.

Daniel Kang led the finalists list as he dominated Anthony Gregoire in the semifinals, 6-0, 6-1, to arrange a title duel against Richard Steele in the boys U12 singles. Steele dethroned 2015 champion Rintaro Miyawaki after posting a 6-3, 6-2 victory in the other Final Four pairing.

Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Robbie Schorr, Asia Raulerson, Coume Kaga, Tania Tan, and Isabel Heras were the other singles players who advanced to the finals of their respective divisions.

Woo and Paik, who faced off in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic's U12 singles finale late last year, will have a rematch this time for the boys U14 division. Woo made it to the finals following a 6-3, 6-3 semis win over Sean Lee, while Paik also took only two sets to eliminate Allan Lee, 6-3, 6-0, in the other Final Four

See 9 on Page 26

XTERRA Saipan veteran leads Tinian MTB race finishers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Perennial XTERRA Saipan participant Kaon Cho of South Korea topped the Pika Festival 65K MTB Race held last Saturday on Tinian.

Cho, who was ranked eighth in last year's Crown Jewel, made it to the finish line at 2:24:37 to set a course record and beat the 41 other Tinian and Saipan bikers who joined the weekend race. The Korean triathlete returned to the start/finish line at the Kammer Beach Fiesta ground more than two minutes ahead of Saipan's Jerome Diyco, who clocked in at 2:41:26. Nap Dizon joined Cho and Diyco in the Top 3 in the men's Open division after submitting 2:43:30.

In the women's Open division, the host's very own Kimberlyn King-Hinds was the first finisher after recording 2:57:33. She was the lone female rider to complete the course under the three-hour mark, as Saipan's Angel Marie Tan and Susan Marchitti registered 3:21:49 and 3:26:45, respectively, to place second and third.

The Top 3 finishers in the Open division and four other categories received medals and other in-kind prizes.

In the men's 46-and-above age group, Saipan's John Arceo won the gold medal after clocking in at 2:48:06 and beating fellow Saipan rider Cesar Fortaleza (2:49:376) and Tinian's Norlo Jacosalem (2:51:42).

In the men's 36 to 45 division, Tinian's Charlie Cabreros prevailed against two

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
South Korea's Kaon Cho, third left, poses with Pika Festival 65K MTB Race participants and organizers after ruling the event last Saturday on Tinian.

See XTERRA on Page 26